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Volume 54: No. 1, 2000
AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1999

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contents

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fall migration: AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER 1999

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3 **Editor's Notebook**

4 **A Notable Autumn Arrival of Reverse-Migrants in Southern Nova Scotia**
IAN MCLAREN
BLAKE MAYBANK
KEITH KEDDY
PHILIP D. TAYLOR
and TRINA FITZGERALD

11 **The Status of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Interior of Florida**
DOUGLAS B. MCNAIR

16 **Changing Seasons: Fall Migration, August–November 1999**
ALAN CONTRERAS

111 **In Memorium: William B. Robertson Jr.**
ROBERT L. NORTON

112 **Market Place**

113 **Pictorial Highlights**

117 **Pictorial Highlights: Special Supplement**
PAUL LEHMAN

THE REGIONAL REPORTS

21 **Atlantic Provinces**
BRUCE MACTAVISH

23 **Québec**
PIERRE BANNON,
NORMAND DAVID,
and YVES AUBRY

26 **New England**
WALTER G. ELLISON
and NANCY L. MARTIN

31 **Hudson–Delaware**
ROBERT O. PAXTON,
JOSEPH C. BURGIEL,
and DAVID A. CUTLER

36 **Middle Atlantic Coast**
MARSHALL J. ILIFF

41 **Southern Atlantic Coast**
RICKY DAVIS

43 **Florida**
BILL PRANTY

46 **Ontario**
MARGARET J. C. BAIN

49 **Appalachia**
ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

52 **Western Great Lakes**
DARYL D. TESSEN

57 **Middle Western Prairie**
KENNETH J. BROCK

61 **Central Southern**
GREG D. JACKSON

65 **Prairie Provinces**
RUDOLF F. KOES
and PETER TAYLOR

67 **Northern Great Plains**
RON MARTIN

68 **Southern Great Plains**
JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

72 **Texas**
CHUCK SEXTON, GREG W. LASLEY,
MARK LOCKWOOD,
and WILLIE SEKULA

77 **Idaho–Western Montana**
DAVID TROCHLELL

79 **Mountain West**
VAN A. TRUAN
and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

82 **Arizona**
ROY M. JONES
and GARY H. ROSENBERG

86 **New Mexico**
SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

89 **Alaska**
THEDE TOBISH

93 **British Columbia–Yukon**
MICHAEL G. SHEPARD

95 **Oregon–Washington**
STEVEN MLODINOW
and BILL TWEIT

99 **Middle Pacific Coast**
DON ROBERSON,
STEPHEN C. ROTTENBORN,
SCOTT B. TERRILL,
DANIEL S. SINGER, and
STEVEN A. GLOVER

103 **Southern Pacific Coast**
GUY McCASKIE

108 **Hawaiian Islands**
ROBERT L. PYLE

109 **West Indies**
ROBERT L. NORTON

ON THE COVER

One of the major avian events of fall 1999 was the appearance of Cave Swallows throughout the northeastern portion of North America. These two birds roosted in an old Barn Swallow nest at the Visitor Centre at Pt. Pelee, Ontario, 4 Nov 1999. The province had but two prior records, yet nearly 50 individuals were recorded there in early November 1999 and dozens more were noted during that time from Québec to South Carolina, including 35+ at Cape May, New Jersey. Photograph/Jim Flynn

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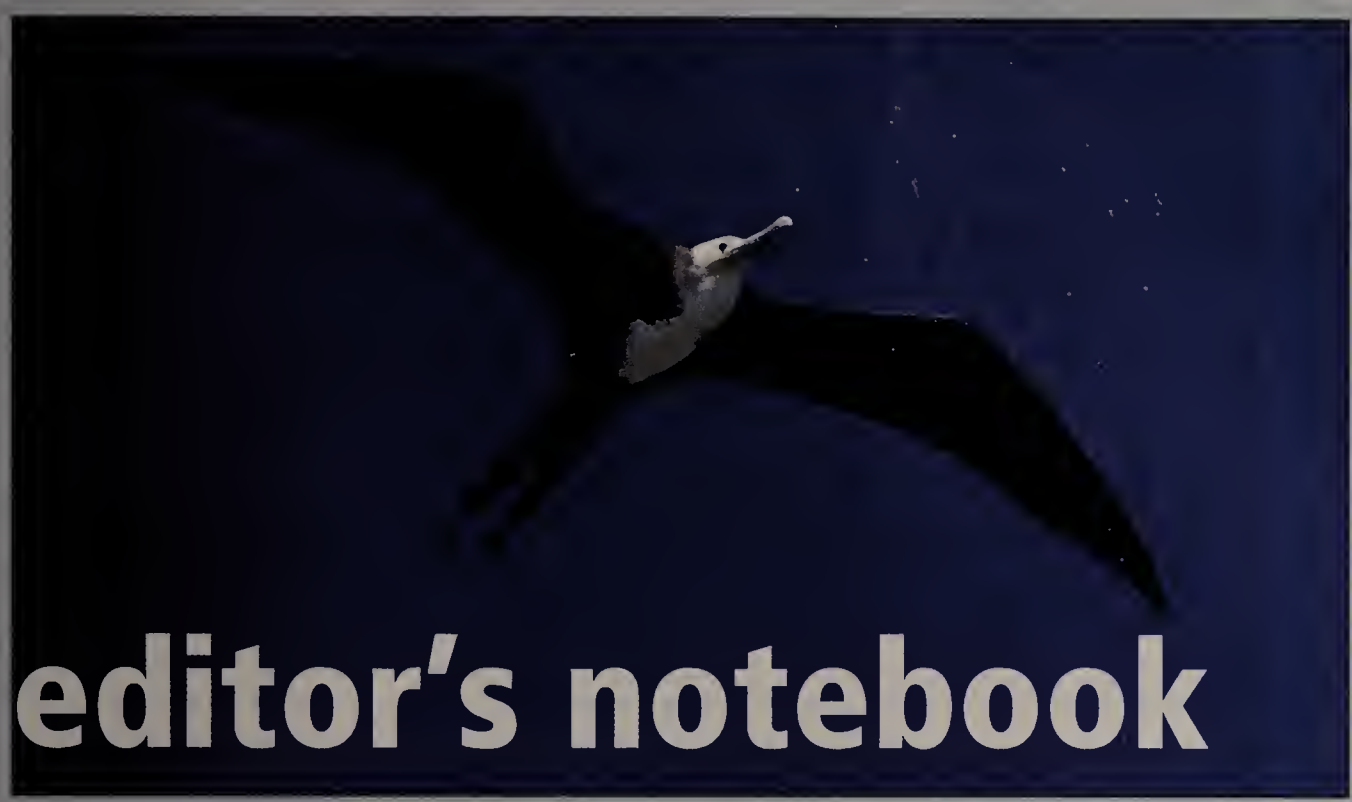

editor's notebook

Figure 1. The Magnificent Frigatebird occurs regularly in southern Florida, where it breeds on the Dry Tortugas and where this photograph was taken by Kevin T. Karlson. The species also occurs regularly along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, mainly as a post-breeding dispersant in summer and early fall. By contrast, small numbers occur inland in the Southeast, with most associated with storms. See Doug McNair's paper on p. 11 for a review and analysis of inland records and their relation to storms.

Despite living on a well-explored continent, frontiers abound in the ornithological world. In other words, although we know an enormous about the avifauna of North America, there remains an enormous amount to learn. Our continued education will come on several fronts, each with a different character.

We will learn much through reanalysis of what came before. Taxonomy changes with the more we learn about the biology and ecology of birds around the world and the more we understand evolutionary processes. Sometimes we learn that taxa previously considered species are best treated as subspecies, generally because interbreeding is found to be extensive or mechanisms thought to prohibit interbreeding (e.g., substantial song differences) are found wanting. Sometimes we learn the converse, that taxa previously considered subspecies are best treated as species. Sadly, the former often leads to waning interest and a cessation of reporting by most birders. Thankfully, the latter often leads to a cogent reinterpretation of prior records. I hope that someday soon all birders will report to the level of identifiable form, regardless of its taxonomic treatment.

We will learn much by putting effort into regions that have received little coverage, such as Paul Lehman and cohorts have done on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, in the past several falls (see p. 117). Many areas on this continent are "under-birded" or receive only heavily seasonal coverage.

We will learn much from compiling records and analyzing them with respect to seasonality, geography, weather, age/sex ratios, subspecies, etc. Such efforts are the bread and butter of biogeographers and ecologists, yet birders and field ornithologists have amassed more data than most could hope to obtain. Diligent, careful compilation of these data and thorough exploration of various hypotheses regarding patterns of occurrence will take us far (e.g., Figure 1 and see McLaren, et al., page 4).

Lastly, we will learn much by merely continuing to amass records from throughout this vast continent. How else could we learn that Cave Swallows staged an unprecedented "invasion" of the Northeast in fall 1999 (see the cover and various Regional Reports herein)? How else can we track the expansions of the *Plegadis ibis*, with the White-faced increasing in the East and the Glossy increasing in the West? How else can we track the sad decline of Wood Stork and Fulvous Whistling-Duck in the Southwest?

A "frontier" can mean many things, from a region previously unexplored to a thought previously unexplored, from novel ruminations about moments past to predictions of future events. We can each explore frontiers, at our own pace and in our own regions, and thus contribute to our knowledge of avian status and distribution.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

As with any journal publishing an enormous amount of data, a few errors or oversights manage to creep into the pages of *North American Birds (NAB)*. The following list is by no means comprehensive, but instead serves to correct a few items that have appeared in these pages over the past year.

The scientific name, *Oceanodroma monorhis*, was inadvertently omitted from the paper documenting North America's first Swinhoe's Storm-Petrel (*NAB* 53:6–10). Credits for two photographs accompanying the paper documenting North America's first Gray-hooded Gull (*NAB* 53:337–339) were incorrect. They were taken by Thomas E. Lewis of Apalachicola, Florida. Similarly, the photographs of the Kentucky Warbler (*NAB* 53:314) and Wood Thrush (*NAB* 53:344) were taken by Laury Sager. The four Broad-tailed Hummingbirds reported at Flora, Oregon, 19 June 1999 (*NAB* 53:427) were seen by Trent Bray, not by Alan Contreras.

In the Florida report for spring 1999, *NAB* 53(3), the Red-throated Loon should be deleted (photographs show the bird to be a Common Loon). Likewise, the 5 May La Sagra's Flycatcher was apparently a pale Great Crested Flycatcher. Software conversion problems unfortunately converted symbols for photographs to an 'H' and some dashes to 'B'. For clarification, the Stripe-headed Tanager provided the first published report for the Gulf Coast of Florida. Also for clarification, the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck nest found in Florida in summer 1999 (*NAB* 53:355, 53:377) was indeed the first nest found in that state, but the first breeding was confirmed in 1990 when a brood of flightless young was photographed.

My thanks to Richard C. Banks, Alan Contreras, Thomas E. Lewis, Bill Pranty, and Laury Sager for bringing these items to my attention.

FUND RAISING

The last two years have been a challenging time for the funding of North American Birds. A number of people have worked hard to raise funds to support the development of this publication, and we thank them for their time and generosity. Jon Dunn is the name bahind much of the fund raising. With Kimball Garrett, Jon organized a number of events in Orange County, California, for which we thank Sea and Sage Audubon, including Mark Singer, Jean McGlaughlan, and Mike San Miguel. Jon arranged and presented a fund raisng event at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, hosted by the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, raising more than $3500 from their tour. Jon was also responsible for initiating a donation of $600 to North American Birds. The funds raised through Jon and others were matched by a $3000 grant from Chevron Research and Technology Company–we extend our thanks to Pat O'Brien for this donation.

—Michael A. Patten, Editor

A Notable Autumn Arrival Of Reverse-Migrants In Southern Nova Scotia

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ABSTRACT
Unprecedented numbers of apparent reverse-migrant and vagrant southern birds arrived the afternoon of 11 October 1998 in southernmost Nova Scotia. Their relative abundances were largely predicted by numbers of tower kills recorded during the fall season from 1955 to 1980 in northeastern Florida, as well as by the number of each species present in Nova Scotia just prior to the 1998 fallout. Among species that were unusually common or scarce relative to the northwestern Florida records, excessively large numbers of Scarlet Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings diminished sharply soon after arrival and evidently reappeared in coastal Massachusetts. The many vireos and warblers lingered, and did not later appear in numbers further south. Weather patterns suggest that the birds departed coastal southeastern United States the evening of 9 October, following a stalled cold front that began to move rapidly offshore. Evidently some birds reached a southwesterly flow beyond the front and were carried (and probably flew downwind) to the east side of a deepening low south of Nova Scotia. This then propelled them on easterly gales to a small stretch of coast and islands at the southern extremity of the province.

INTRODUCTION: THE EVENT
On 11 October 1998, Nova Scotia was experiencing what locals casually refer to as "weather"— gale-to-storm-force easterlies, with driving rain. In late afternoon, Maybank, who then maintained the Nova Scotia Bird Society Bird Information Line, received a phone call from Rina Nichols, supervisor of the Atlantic Bird Observatory's banding station on Bon Portage (Outer) Island (Fig. 1). She excitedly described how, during a just-completed 1.5-hour walking census on the island, observers had tallied 62 Indigo Buntings and 10 Scarlet Tanagers, and many more in the general area. Although such numbers were unprecedented, both species are regular here in late autumn and neither would require a rare bird alert. However, it was tempting to speculate what other species might be around.

Maybank's musings were cut short by a phone call from Murray Newell, a tireless birder on Cape Sable Island at the southern extreme of the province (Fig. 1). Newell could not restrain his jubilation as he reported waves of birds coming in from the sea and hitting the coast at Dan'ls Head (Fig. 1) in the late afternoon. Many birds took shelter in stacked lobster traps, and in one confined area Newell and John Nickerson had encountered four Hooded Warblers, a Worm-eating Warbler, and "many" Indigo Buntings, as well as a few Blue Grosbeaks. This was clearly a major event.

Although many other birders had familly commitments the next day, Canadian Thanksgiving, Maybank drove to Cape Sable Island and met Murray Newell at dawn. The weather was still inclement, with northwest gales, overcast skies, and low temperatures, but the rain had halted. They headed first for the site of the previous evening's event and managed to coax two Hooded Warblers from the lobster traps. Following a hunch that more species might be found in nearby sheltered areas of vegetation in the region known as The Hawk (Fig. 1), they investigated further and found Indigo Buntings everywhere, including a single flock with more than 100 birds. There were several Blue Grosbeaks and Baltimore Orioles, and warblers and vireos flitted in the alders and spruces, among them a White-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-throated Vireo. Then, in a small hollow sheltered from the gales were four additional White-eyed Vireos, a sight heretofore never reported in Atlantic Canada. Among numerous American Redstarts, Northern Parulas, and Black-and-white Warblers, there were an adult male Prothonotary Warbler, two Scarlet Tanagers, and both cuckoos. By this time Newell had to depart, leaving Maybank to savor another adult male Hooded Warbler, another Yellow-throated Vireo, a male Blue-winged Warbler, a female Summer Tanager, and a female Western Tanager.

Curious to learn if the fallout had also occurred on neighboring peninsulas with a similar east-facing exposure, Maybank headed northeast to Baccaro Point (Fig. 1), where in less than an hour he located a second Prothonotary Warbler, another Yellow-throated Vireo, and 10 Indigo Buntings. Blanche Peninsula (Fig. 1) was next, where he remained until dusk. Memorable sights there also included two Blue-winged Warblers, one White-eyed Vireo, and a Golden-winged Warbler in a single bush. Other Blanche highlights included a male Hooded Warbler, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and 70 Indigo Buntings, as well as an immature Harris's Sparrow that might have arrived with an influx a few days earlier of White-crowned Sparrows, which were still present.

Other observers made further discoveries, but Maybank alone recorded 27 individuals of nine species that would normally be

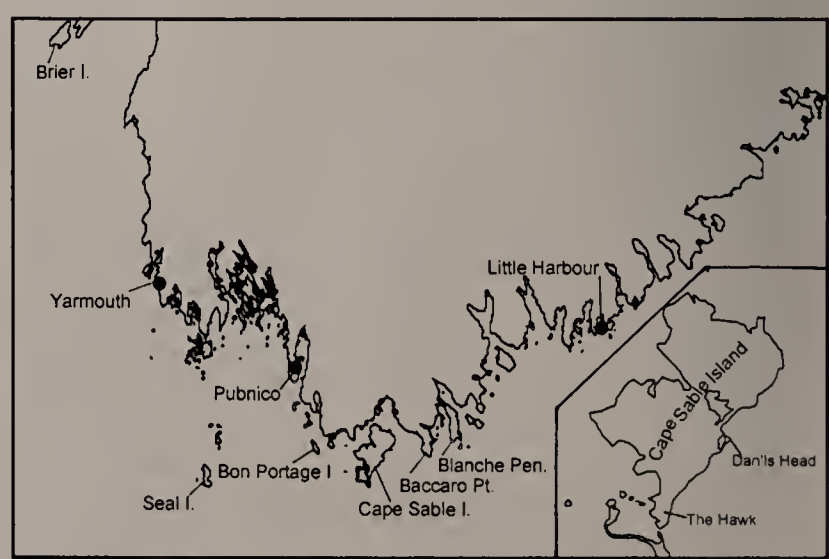

Fig. 1. Southern Nova Scotia with place names mentioned in the text.

Table 1. Occurrences of species during the fallout in southern Nova Scotia and killed at a northwest Florida TV tower 1–20 October 1955–1980 (Crawford 1985). Numbers for Bon Portage and Seal islands are combined daily estimates of birds on censussed areas 11–13 October; numbers in parentheses are combined counts (if > 0) of the same species during the three days prior to the fallout, 8–10 October. The "mainland" Nova Scotia count was made 12 October on Cape Sable Island and nearby peninsulas (see text). An asterisk indicates that the species was recorded in the areas of the fallout during the week following 11 October. Species mapped in National Geographic Society (1999) as breeding no closer to Nova Scotia than southern Maine are designated as "(S)."

Species	Bon Portage I.	Seal I.	"Mainland" NS	Florida
Black-billed Cuckoo	0	0	1	16
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	5	2	214
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1	1	0	8
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	1	0	1
"Traill's" Flycatcher*	0	0 (1)	0	3
Least Flycatcher	0	1	0	0
Eastern Phoebe*	0	0 (4)	0	0
Great Crested Flycatcher	0	0	0	4
White-eyed Vireo (S)	7	8	7	216
Blue-headed Vireo	3 (2)	0 (1)	1	12
Yellow-throated Vireo (S)	5	3	6	102
Warbling Vireo	0	0	1	0
Philadelphia Vireo	3	1	0	12
Red-eyed Vireo	180 (2)	100 (4)	32	1374
House Wren	0	1	0	142
Marsh Wren	1	0	0	88
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	22 (11)	68 (15)	2	93
Veery	1 (1)	0	0	177
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	0	0	98
Swainson's Thrush	0	0	1	280
Hermit Thrush	0	3	0	29
Wood Thrush	0	0	0	213
Gray Catbird	10	13 (4)	1	662
Brown Thrasher	0	0	0	187
Blue-winged Warbler (S)	0	1	4	25
Golden-winged Warbler (S)	1	0	1	19
Tennessee Warbler	6	2	0	345
Orange-crowned Warbler*	0	0	0	6
Nashville Warbler	0	7	0	2
N. Parula	52	20	19	457
Yellow Warbler	0	1	0	18
Chestnut-sided Warbler	13	7	1	305
Magnolia Warbler	14 (2)	21 (2)	9	430
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	11
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2 (5)	0	2	17
Yellow-rumped Warbler	190 (57)	220 (125)	50	4
Black-throated Green Warbler	13	19 (2)	4	40
Blackburnian Warbler	2	1	0	105
Yellow-throated Warbler (S)	4	1	0	25
Pine Warbler*	0	0	0	54
Prairie Warbler* (S)	0	0	0	134
Palm Warbler	19 (3)	15 (2)	2	1506
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	0	0	251
Blackpoll Warbler	6 (8)	8 (3)	5	1
Cerulean Warbler (S)	0	0	0	1
Black-and-white Warbler	22	45	4	224
American Redstart	91	77 (8)	17	473
Prothonotary Warbler (S)	0	0	2	3
Worm-eating Warbler (S)	0	1	0	41
Swainson's Warbler (S)	0	0	0	35
Ovenbird	20 (4)	31	2	436
Northern Waterthrush	4	5	0	179
Louisiana Waterthrush (S)	0	0	0	3
Kentucky Warbler* (S)	0	0	0	38
Connecticut Warbler	2	0	0	0
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0
Common Yellowthroat	125 (11)	163 (9)	6	824
Hooded Warbler (S)	8	2	4	320
Wilson's Warbler	0	2	1	1
Canada Warbler*	0	0	0	4
Yellow-breasted Chat* (S)	0	0	0	28
Summer Tanager (S)	0	0	1	88
Scarlet Tanager	31	5	5	98
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	3	0	55
Blue Grosbeak (S)	27	31	6	27
Indigo Bunting	255	102	190	571
Orchard Oriole (S)	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	2	8

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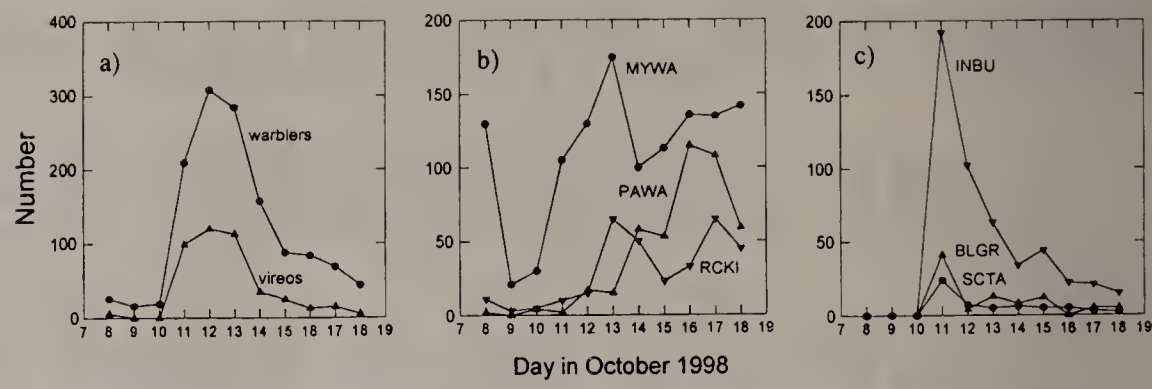


Fig. 2. Numbers of birds of certain species or species groups of birds estimated in daily census areas on Bon Portage and Seal islands, NS, October 1998. The "warblers" in panel a) exclude Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") and Palm Warblers. The species in panel b) are: Yellow-rumped Warbler (MYWA), Palm Warbler (PAWA), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (RCKI). The species in panel c) are Indigo Bunting (INBU), Blue Grosbeak (BLGR), and Scarlet Tanager (SCTA).

reported to local rare bird alerts, some of which would require documentation. (And that excludes the remarkable count of almost 200 Indigo Buntings.)

Through the week the teams on Bon Portage and Seal islands continued their banding and standardized censussing, and were astonished by peak daily estimates totaling over 500 warblers and vireos, including up to 24 southern vagrant individuals among them. Interestingly, although Scarlet Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings continued to be abundant, their numbers declined sharply after the first day.

The cornucopia poured out all week. Maybank returned 16 October with McLaren, Eric Mills, and Elizabeth Stockwell. The weather was again blustery, but the birds continued to delight at most spots searched earlier in the week by Maybank (although the party did not visit Baccaro Point due to lack of time). Despite daily observation by others in the interim, new discoveries were still made, and the party found several RBA-reportable species, including six White-eyed Vireos, three Yellow-throated Vireos, a Golden-winged Warbler, a Yellow-throated Warbler, two Kentucky Warblers, and four male Hooded Warblers.

The extraordinary magnitude of the fallout was evident to all who witnessed it. For comparison, between 1964 and 1997 on 144 birding days on Seal Island during the first 20 days of October, none of the above-mentioned maximal day counts was exceeded (many observers, from unpublished daily lists collected by McLaren). The 1998 fallout was notably focused on east-facing areas of southernmost Nova Scotia. To the northwest, no unusual numbers of migrants and vagrants were reported during the week of 11 October from actively birded locations around Pubnico and Yarmouth (Fig. 1). More pertinently, a Nova Scotia Bird Society field trip on Brier Island (Fig. 1) found many birds 11-12 October, but no southern vagrants among them (F. Lavender pers. comm.). However, around Little Harbour, some 35 mi (60 km) northeast of Cape Sable Island (Fig. 1), David Young (pers. comm.) found about 20 Red-eyed Vireos and the following vagrants in four hours on 12 October: a White-eyed Vireo, a Blue-winged Warbler, a Blue Grosbeak, and an Indigo Bunting. There were no reports of vagrants northeast of this area during the next few days.

A weaker and later fallout event occurred in coastal Massachusetts. Numbers and dates can be gleaned from Ellison and Martin (1999) and Rines et al. (1999), and most thoroughly from newspaper accounts by E. Vernon Laux (Vineyard Gazette: 23 November 1998, "Bird notes;" 30 November 1998, "Autumn Storm Leads to Rare Bird Landings"). The earliest reported Indigo Buntings were eight at Truro, Cape Cod, 12 October; others were found that day on Martha's Vineyard, along with nine Blue Grosbeaks. Greater numbers of Blue Grosbeaks appeared later on Martha's Vineyard: 16 on 14 October and 26 on 16 October. There is no mention of large numbers of northern vireos and warblers, but southern vagrants included a White-eyed Vireo at Truro on 12 October, and four-five Scarlet Tanagers, a Yellow-throated Vireo, and a Yellow-throated Warbler and three Prothonotary Warblers during 13-14 October. Two Hooded Warblers were netted at Tuckernut on 12 October. The only published mention of a timely occurrence in relation to the Nova Scotia arrivals were the four Blue Grosbeaks found 11 October on Block Island, RI, quite far from the storm's center (Ellison and Martin 1999).

THE LIST

Estimated numbers of individuals of the various species involved in the fallout in Nova Scotia have been publicized previously (Brinkley 1999, Ellison and Martin, 1999). Those numbers were generated by Maybank partly by extrapolations from reports that concentrated only on rarities and vagrants to estimate numbers of more

common species. Maybank had also used counts made by various observers through the week following the fallout, when there were considerable changes in relative abundance of the fallout species.

In the combined daily estimates in censussed areas of Bon Portage and Seal islands, abnormally late migrant and vagrant warblers and vireos (along with a handful of flycatchers, thrushes, and Gray Catbirds) peaked on 12 October, the day after the storm (Fig. 2a). By contrast, the notable numbers of Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and Scarlet Tanagers dropped sharply (Fig. 2c). Three abundant, hardy species that normally have peak abundances in Nova Scotia in early October or later (Tufts 1985)—Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler (which also winters in numbers) and Palm Warbler (Fig. 2b)—continued to increase for some days after the storm.

For further analysis, we used only the estimated daily numbers of each species in the island census areas 11–13 October, along with numbers tallied by Maybank during his extensive survey 12 October. We excluded some sparrows that are routine, often in large numbers, at this time of year and that also winter in Nova Scotia; those species generally reckoned as day-migrants or otherwise unlikely to have flown offshore further south (other sparrows, most icterids other than orioles; the western vagrants Western Tanager and Harris's Sparrow); and those not noted amongst trees and brush that were searched (swallows and Bobolink). The final lists (Table 1) represent relative abundances of the species that arrived in the fallout.

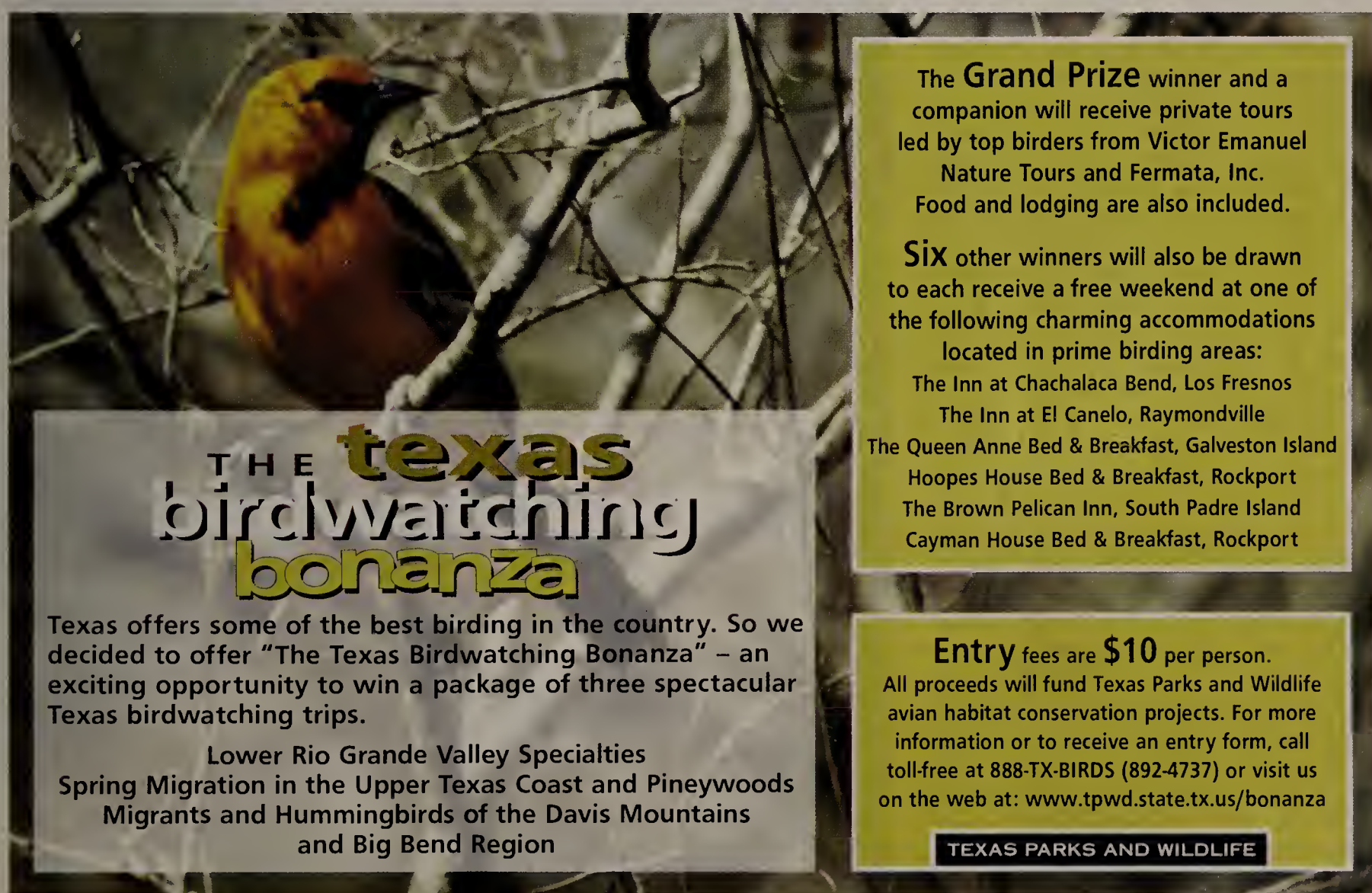
Blue Grosbeaks, like this one sitting in a spruce in southern Nova Scotia in mid-November 1995, are scarce vagrants in the province; more than 60 during the first three days of the fallout in October 1998.

The most abundant "southern" Warbler in the 1998 fallout was the Hooded, most of them males like this one glowing amidst building debris on Sable I. in mid-September 1974.

A few Indigo Buntings, like this one on Seal I. in October 1987, are regular late-fall vagrants in Nova Scotia, but occurred in unprecedented numbers as the most abundant species in the 1998 fallout.

SPECIES COMPOSITION AND ORIGIN OF THE BIRDS

Here we use the relative abundances of the fallout species in Table 1



as an indication of their possible origin. Clearly some species marked as "southern" in Table 1 had undergone reverse migration from somewhere south of New England; presumably some associated species had also done so. South of New England, a "good flight" of warblers was in coastal Virginia 23 September 1998 (Iliff 1999), and a few concentrations were also found in the southern Atlantic States in September (Davis 1999). By early October, however, most warbler species would have vacated the mid-Atlantic states while still showing peak or near-peak numbers in Florida or on the Gulf Coast (Dunn and Garrett 1997). Indeed, there were notable numbers of vireos and warblers in Florida during late September and early October 1998 (Pranty 1999). Local banding records may be uninformative. For example, on a capture list of 22 species from Orlando, FL, 10–12 October (Parks Small, Florida Park Service, pers. comm.), only the Common Yellowthroat was among the top ten in found Nova Scotia (Table 1). Many of the fallout species also occur in the fall on the Bahamas. There are no quantitative records available from the Bahamas for early October 1998 (Rick Oliver and Tony White, pers. comm.), and records of kills at two towers on Grand Bahama 22 October 1966 (Kale et al. 1969) do not seem helpful; among 133 individuals of 22 species, more than half consisted of Gray-cheeked Thrushes (39), Blackpoll Warblers (21) and Northern Parulas (14), only the last of which was among the top ten in Nova Scotia.

Without sufficient combined records of numbers from banding stations or other quantitative lists from southeastern U.S. at the time of the fallout, we use the extensive data in Crawford (1981a). He presented numbers killed at a northwest Florida TV tower during the three 10/11-day periods of each month from 1955 to 1980. From these we combined the counts for the first two 10-day periods of October. As with the Nova Scotia list (see above), we included only those species that are primarily night migrants and excluded those that routinely winter in Nova Scotia. Of the 10 most abundant species in the Nova Scotia fallout (Table 1; estimates >80), six were among the top 10 in Florida. Among the Nova Scotia top 10, all had peak Florida mortalities during the first third of October except for Red-eyed Vireo, which had peaks in the first and second third periods (differing age groups?).

The similarity of the ranked abundances at the three Nova Scotia locations ($R^S = 0.66–0.77$ in the three comparisons, all $P << 0.001$) is as expected. The high correlation of the combined Nova Scotia estimates with those from Florida ($r^s = 0.51$, $P << 0.001$) is also not surprising, as the same would probably be true of any other pair of substantial autumn lists from eastern North America. Of greater interest is the extent to which observed species abundances in Nova Scotia can be explained by their relative numbers at that time in Florida and by other possible influences. Regressions using raw numbers (Table 1) have severe statistical problems, with residuals far from normal (Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, $P << 0.001$). Logarithmic transformation of numbers (+1) produces well-fitting models. Almost one-third of the variation ($r^2 = 0.29$) in the combined Nova Scotia counts is predicted by the Florida counts alone ($t = 5.25$, $P << 0.001$). However, some of the presumed fallout birds were obviously in the vicinity before 11 October. To correct for the expected presence of such individuals during 11-13 October, we also used models that included the average abundances (log [n + 1]) of all species that had been detected in the three days prior to 11 October on Bon Portage and Seal islands (Table 1). Understandably, this sharply increased the amount of variation explained ($r^2 = 0.53$), but slightly weakened the relationship of the fallout and Florida estimates ($t = 4.91$). Similar models fit separately to the data for each island (no pre-fallout estimates available for the mainland counts) increased the amounts of variation explained ($r^2 = 0.56$ for Bon Portage, $r^2 = 0.52$ for Seal Island), but the relationship between the fallout and Florida abundances was strengthened only for Bon Portage Island ($t = 5.88$ for Bon Portage, $r^2 = 4.63$

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for Seal Island). A surprisingly large amount of variation among the fallout species can thus be explained by expected "background" numbers and the Florida tower kill records.

Regression can also incorporate features that might reflect the abilities of species to undertake or survive sustained flight over the ocean. We hypothesized as additional independent variables: migration span, crudely as the difference between median latitude of summer and winter ranges (from Howell and Webb 1995; National Geographic Society 1999; Ridgely and Tudor 1989, 1994); average or median wing length (from Pyle 1997); average body weight (mostly from Dunning 1993); and interactions among them. The only variable, along with the pre-fallout counts, that added slightly to amount of variation explained (r^2 = 0.55) and to the relationship between the Nova Scotia and Florida abundances (t = 5.21) after stepwise regression, was body weight (t = -1.88, P = 0.063). This seemingly counterintuitive, weakly negative effect of body weight appears to reflect consistent under-representation of the relatively large thrushes and mimids, not compensated by over-representation of fewer large species like Blue Grosbeak.

Probably the most reliably counted birds were the vireos and warblers, which occurred in similar wooded habitats, often flocked together, and were keenly sought. The tower kills for this selected group, along with the average abundances on the islands prior to the fallout, indeed explain more variation (r^2 = 0.68, t = 4.99 for the effect of the Florida counts) among the fallout abundances, with no other significant variables. The model using data from Bon Portage Island alone explained no more overall variation in fallout numbers (r^2 = 0.66), but enhanced the apparent explanatory power of the Florida counts (t = 6.19). Use of data from Seal Island alone greatly increased the amount of variation explained in fallout numbers (r^2 = 0.72), largely attributable to the prior island counts (t = 7.21 vs. 4.84 for the effect of Florida counts).

Given the variations among the various models, it would be unwise to attempt to explain all remaining differences between the Nova Scotia and Florida lists. In statistical terms, only the regression for all species on Table 1, using both pre-fallout abundances and body weights, had a species significantly too common in Nova Scotia relative to Florida This was the Indigo Bunting (standardized residual = +3.54), with the Blue Grosbeak (+2.79) and then Scarlet Tanager (+1.97) next most deviant, although not significantly so (at P = 0.05). These deviations do not detract from the general conclusion that the fallout originated from an assemblage of species resembling the set of birds usually present at the same season in the southeastern United States

WEATHER PATTERNS AND ORIGIN OF THE BIRDS

The easterlies that brought the birds ashore were associated with deepening low pressure centered south of Nova Scotia and east of Cape Cod (Fig. 2, 11 October, 18 Z, 13:00 ADT). The lack of fallout in localities in the wind "shadow" to the northwest (Fig. 1), is in keeping with this pattern. The fewer birds around Little Harbour, NS (Fig. 1), and lack of recorded sightings beyond that to the northeast also indicate that a quite compact mass of birds had become entrained close to the storm's center (see the isobar patterns Fig. 3, 11 October, 18 Z). The limited number of species, smaller number of individuals, and evidently later appearances of apparent fallout species in coastal Massachusetts (see Introduction) suggest that those were birds that had resumed southward migration from Nova Scotia. This hypothesis is reinforced by the sharp diminution of numbers of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings the day after the Nova Scotia fallout.

Where did they originate? In early evening Oct. 10 (Fig. 3, 10 October, 00Z) and for more than 24 hours previously, a characteristic "Carolinas front" was nearly stalled along the U.S. east coast, from

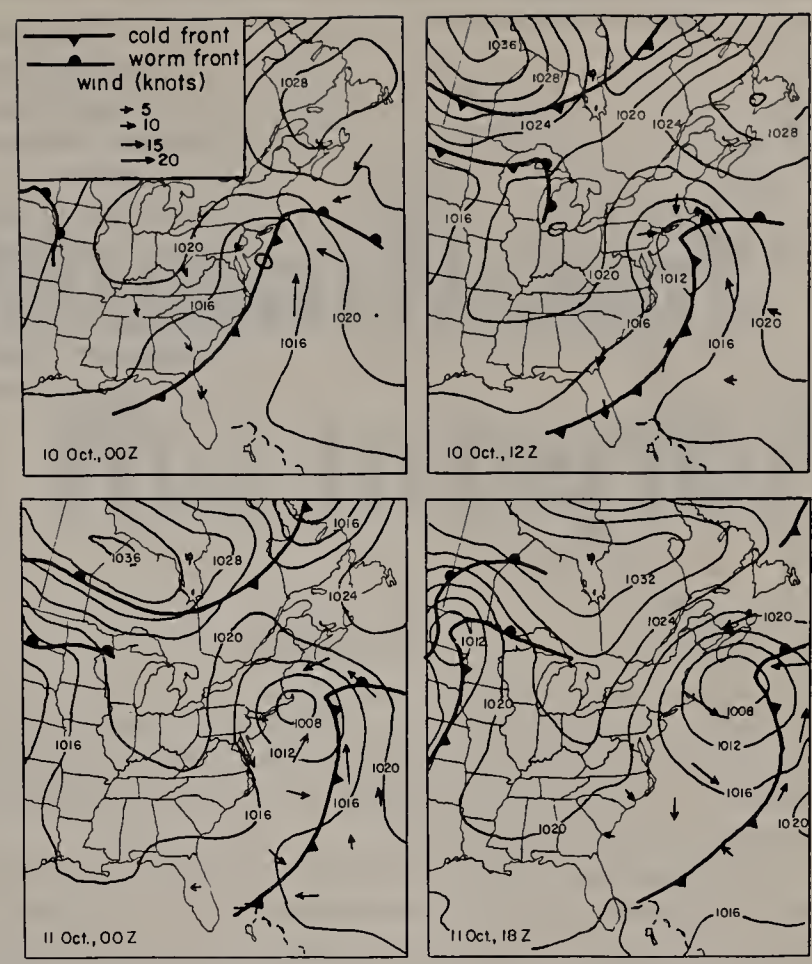

Fig. 3. Surface atmospheric pressure and wind patterns 9–11 October 1998. The wind directions, where strong, probably reflect quite well those at higher altitudes, where birds migrate. The universal times (Z), 00, 12, and 18, are equivalent to 21:00, 09:00, and 15:00 ADT respectively in Nova Scotia, and one hour earlier in Florida.

Cape Cod in the north to across northern Florida in the south. The front was embedded in a shallow trough, with cyclonic flow beginning to develop at its northern end, and moved sharply offshore overnight 9-10 Oct. (Fig. 3, 10 October, 00 Z and 12 Z). Although the cold front was weak, with following surface flow only ~5 knots in the southeastern United States, these conditions generally encourage migration. As Richardson (1972) found from radar studies in eastern Canada: "Offshore flights to the SE or S were most common or densest when there were W or NW winds. Such winds usually occurred immediately after the passage of cold fronts." Richardson (1976) also found that landbirds flying toward the West Indies generally continued southeast–south-southwest at dawn even over the sea. Southeast movement of birds on 5-knot northwest winds with passage of a cold front is pertinently evident in ground distribution of bird kills at a TV tower at the Tall Timbers Research Station in Leon County in the Florida panhandle (Crawford 1981b, his Fig. 1, depicting 25 September 1965). On the other hand, ahead of such cold fronts where southwest flow prevails, there can be reverse, downwind migration, although this is variable in occurrence and intensity (Richardson 1978, 1982).

Thus, a large movement of birds off the southeast U.S. coast could have occurred on the night of 9–10 October. The slackness of winds (open isobars on Fig. 3) southeast of Florida might suggest that mass departures would not have originated from the Bahamas. However, there was also strong convection (cumulus and thunderstorms) over the Bahamas that could have carried birds aloft. North of the Bahamas the strong southerly flow in the warm sector could have triggered downwind, reverse migration by offshore migrants.

More insight can be gained tracking hypothetical parcels of air using the Canadian Meteorological Centre's trajectory model. Back-trajectories of air arriving at Cape Sable (Fig. 1) at 12 Z proved somewhat unrevealing. Parcels at 1000 (surface) and 925 hPa (~0.5-mile altitude) arrived from the northeast. However, air at 850 hPa

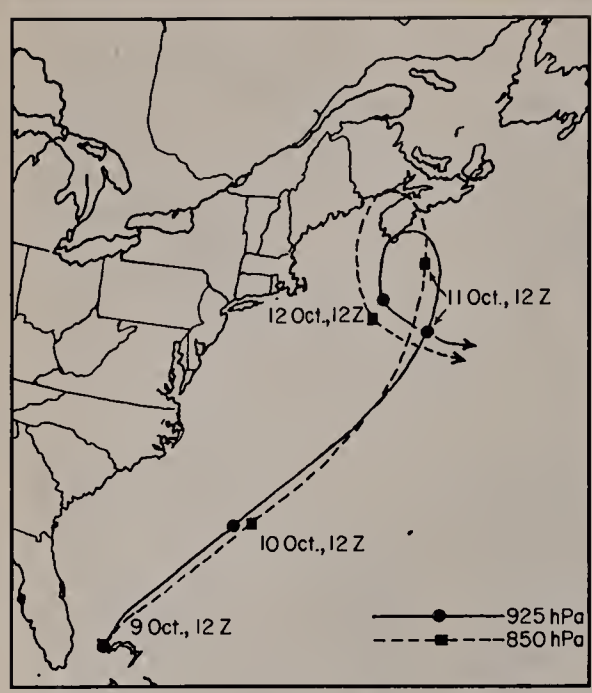

Fig. 4. Trajectory of an imaginary parcel of air originating at Freeport, Bahamas, and tracked over the next three to four days. Positions each day at 12 Z, or 08:00 in Freeport and 09:00 ATD in Nova Scotia, are indicated.

(~1 mile up) was traceable to a position ~100 miles north of Bermuda 24 hours earlier. Passerines in the Caribbean region can certainly fly at such heights (Richardson 1976), but Bermuda is a most unlikely origin of the fallout.

Another approach is to trace forward-trajectories from plausible sources. A hypothetical origin from Bahamas (Fig. 4) is revealing. For birds to have left Freeport, convected locally to 925–850 hPa (0.5-1 mile) levels, and then to be carried passively to Nova Scotia by afternoon 11 October, would have required departure almost a half-day prior to 9 October at 12 Z (the evening of 8 October). This would have meant staying aloft almost three days. However, the Freeport air parcel was greatly accelerated at these altitudes beginning next day (Fig. 4). Passerines departing east to southeast on the evening of 9 October from the Carolinas to Florida and traveling at flight speeds of ~20-25 m.p.h. could easily have been 200 miles offshore at dawn the next day (Ehrlich et al. 1988). This would have placed them near dawn on 10 October somewhere between the hypothetical positions (Fig. 4) of the Bahamas air parcel at 12 Z on 9–10 October. The accelerated southwest flow would then have taken them quite close to Nova Scotia by early morning 11 October (Fig. 4). Abetted by downwind flight, an arrival in southwest Nova Scotia a few hours later, less than two days after departure, is highly plausible. It is also noteworthy that the hypothetical air masses, after reaching Nova Scotia, did not pass near coastal Massachusetts (Fig. 4).

It is also possible that meteorological conditions had concentrated the birds at departure sites prior to their offshore movements. There were broad south-southeast airflows in the southeastern United States in advance of the progressing front before it reached the coast. If many such migrants had oriented downwind, as noted previously at sites in Louisiana and Georgia by Gauthreaux and Able (1970), they might have become concentrated along the front as it progressed. However, this in itself cannot explain the arrival of such large numbers from offshore in Nova Scotia.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the large and diverse assemblage of birds that arrived at southern extremity of Nova Scotia from the east originated much farther south, plausibly from the southeastern U.S., 1500-2500 km distant. This contrasts with Richardson (1982), who could not conclude from radar tracking that autumn reverse migrants in Nova Scotia had traveled more than 400 km from New England. The combination of offshore movements of cold fronts in the southern U.S., with low pressure developing farther north, is a common meteorological pattern, and may help explain the unusual frequency of southern vagrants during autumn on Nova Scotia islands (McLaren 1981). The particularly spectacular example of 11 October 1998, after the birds became caught up in southwesterly flow, may have resulted from the slow movement of the storm center off southern Nova Scotia, which ultimately propelled them ashore. Such centers usually move rapidly to the northeast and offshore, and must on such occasions carry many more landbirds to a watery end. A plausible case has indeed been made that severe North Atlantic storms in autumn may negatively influence songbird breeding populations the following spring (Butler 2000). The arrival of much greater numbers of Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and Scarlet Tanagers relative to their abundances on the Florida list may indicate that they were better able to sustain the long flight. The sharp drop in their numbers the day after arrival and their apparent reappearance in coastal Massachusetts may also reflect a robust condition for resumed migration compared with the many, mostly smaller, obligate insectivores. More insights on effects of the 1998 fallout and similar reverse-migration events could be gained by analysis of banding recapture rates and changes of body condition of individuals of the species involved.

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The Status of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Interior of Florida

The Influence of Storms

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ABSTRACT

Magnificent Frigatebirds *Fregata magnificens* have occurred in the interior of Florida about once a year since the 1970s; the first report was in 1926. All but seven counts ranged from 1–7 birds; most low counts were associated with the occurrence of storms. The seven high counts ranged from 11–127 birds; all of these counts were directly related to major storms (tropical cyclones, depressions, and subtropical cyclones) in June, September, and October. All but one of these seven storms landed on, or approached, the central or southern Gulf coast of Florida, where local frigatebirds are numerous. Excluding high counts during specific storms, almost three frigatebirds per count in the interior of Florida occurred during other major storms, almost double the number observed during more typical weather. The seasonal pattern of occurrence of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of Florida generally coincided with the tropical cyclone season (June-November), although the correspondence was imperfect. The peak number of occurrences was in September, the peak month for tropical cyclones in Florida, although a higher proportion occurred during major storms in June. The status of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of Florida is compared to their status in the interior of other regions of the United States. This study has shown that Magnificent Frigatebirds that occur in the interior of Florida are non-random vagrants.

INTRODUCTION

The Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* is primarily a coastal marine species in Florida. Birds that occur in the interior are unusual, and most of these occurrences are storm-related (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Robertson and Wilmers 1996). Nevertheless, the relationship between the occurrence of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of Florida and weather has not been investigated. In this paper I examine the relationship that storms (both tropical cyclones and less severe storms) and more typical weather may have with the occurrence of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of Florida and compare these patterns to the status of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of other regions of the United States (e.g., McCaskie 1970, Mlodinow 1998).

METHODS

I obtained data on inland occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in Florida through 1999 from Howell (1932), Stevenson and Anderson (1994), *Audubon Field Notes* and its successors *American Birds* and *Field Notes* (cf. Loftin et al. 1991), the field observations section of the *Florida Field Naturalist*, archives at Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS), and other pertinent sources, e.g., Funderburg (1966), Weigley and Weigley (1966), Fellers (1988). I examined the original citations for each occurrence and assumed all frigatebirds in the interior of Florida were reported and correctly identified. I analyzed each occurrence separately, but also classified occurrences into two groups for further analysis. I categorized one occurrence per weather event (e.g., number of birds on the day of a storm) as a single event. I categorized two to four occurrences (the maximum number reported) at multiple localities per weather event as a multiple event. I classified weather events into two categories, a storm or more typical weather (i.e., the apparent absence of storms), and also subdivided a storm into two groups: major storms which includes tropical cyclones, tropical depressions, and subtropical cyclones with winds equal to or greater than 63 km/h, and less severe storms as the second group.

I examined data on tracks of tropical cyclones in the North Atlantic Ocean in Neumann et al. (1981) (data from 1981-1996 were extracted from annual reports published in *Monthly Weather Review* and for 1997–1999 from *Weatherwise*) to determine which occurrences were associated with major storms. I also examined hurricane season summaries of North Atlantic tropical cyclones in *Monthly Weather Review*, weather data in *Storm Data* (since 1959), and *Daily Weather Maps* (since 1969) for additional clarifications when desired. I determined whether the remaining occurrences were associated with less severe storms or more typical weather by examining weather data obtained from monthly summaries of *Local Climatological Data Florida* (since 1929), *Storm Data*, and *Daily Weather Maps*.

RESULTS

Magnificent Frigatebirds have been documented to occur inland in Florida on 61 occasions since 1926 (Howell 1932); 34 occurrences (56%) are from central Florida, the remainder from north (n = 13, 21%) and south (n = 8, 13%) Florida and the Panhandle (n = 6, 10%) (regions as defined in Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The number of occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebird in the interior of Florida by decade has significantly increased (Spearman's $r = 0.9$, $P = 0.002$), especially since the 1970s (n = 44, 72% of total). Of the 61 occurrences, 49 (80%) occurred during storms. Thirty-two occurrences are single events (32 weather events); of these single events, 10 (31%) occurrences were during more typical weather. Twenty-nine occurrences are multiple events (11 weather events); of these, two (7%) occurrences were during more typical weather, a significant difference ($\chi^2 = 4.26$, $P < 0.05$) from the higher proportion of occurrences of single events during more typical weather. Most (10 of 11) multiple events were associated with storms; nine of these were major storms, with four in June, three in September, and one each in August and November. All frigatebirds found in the interior of Florida remained no longer than one day, except for birds from two occurrences during tropical cyclones that possibly lingered at the same locality for a second day.

The number of frigatebirds per occurrence ranged from 1-127; almost half (n = 29; 48%) of all counts were of one frigatebird. Only seven counts exceeded seven birds; all but the lowest of these seven high counts (11, 18, 23, 27, 30, 45, 127) were associated with multiple events during storms. Excluding high counts, the mean number of frigatebirds per occurrence was 2.44±1.94 SD (n = 54), which did not differ by region (one-way ANOVA on log-transformed numbers: $F = 0.62$, df = 3,50; $P = 0.6$). Again excluding high counts, as the severity of weather increased, the number of birds increased: the mean number of birds that occurred among major storms, less severe storms, and more typical weather was almost significantly different (major storms: 2.81±1.91 SD (n = 37); less severe storms: 2.2±2.68 SD (n = 5); more normal weather: 1.58±1.51 SD (n = 12); one-way ANOVA on log-transformed numbers: $F = 2.96$, df = 2,51; $P = 0.06$).

In Florida, most (n = 56, 92%) inland frigatebirds have occurred from 2 May to 23 November; none of the three occurrences in May were associated with storms. The two peak months were June, with 15 of 17 occurrences associated with seven major storms (six in the peninsula), and September, with 18 of 21 occurrences associated with 13 major storms (10 in the peninsula) (Fig. 1); six of seven high counts occurred in these two months, the other in October. No inland frigatebirds occurred in the Panhandle or north Florida after September, except on 21 November 1985 (a flock of six at Lake Jackson, Leon County, was associated with Hurricane Kate). In contrast, 12 (20%) of all inland occurrences occurred in central or south Florida after September. The unusually early date on 15 March 1986 was of one bird seen 8 km west of Pompano Beach, Broward County, following a large-scale synoptic system (squall line) in central Florida on 14 March, which produced hail and strong onshore winds in Broward County on 15 March (*Climatological Data Florida, Storm Data, Daily Weather Map*; Langridge 1986). The four late reports from 22-30 December were single birds that occurred in central Florida; one occurrence was associated with a storm.

DISCUSSION

An increase in observer effort, not an increase in the number of Magnificent Frigatebirds since coastal populations in Florida may possibly have declined since the 1980s (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Robertson and Wilmers 1996), is probably responsible for the increase in the number of occurrences of frigatebirds in the interior of Florida since the 1970s when they have been reported approximately once a year. A disproportionate number of occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds might be expected in the interior of central and south Florida because of proximity to larger coastal populations in these regions compared to north Florida or the Panhandle (Robertson and Wilmers 1996), yet only a small proportion of frigatebirds have been reported in south Florida. Observer effort has been concentrated in the interior of central Florida which has abundant, accessible large lakes where many frigatebirds have been seen and a high human population density, in contrast to much less observer effort in the interior of south Florida, which has few large lakes except for Lake Okeechobee which is undersampled, a lot of inaccessible land, and a much lower human population density except along the immediate coast. All or almost all frigatebirds inland in Florida presumably return to the coast quickly on the day of their arrival inland; the most distant point inland in Florida from the coast is 120-130 km (Winsberg 1990). Most occurrences of frigatebirds are directly related to storms, especially major storms, which confirms the statement of Robertson and Woolfenden (1992). Although the Magnificent Frigatebird is the most numerous marine species to occur in the interior of Florida following tropical cyclones and other major storms (D. B. McNair unpubl. data; *cf.* Louisiana; Marantz and Kratter 1998, Remsen 1998), and now satisfy the criteria of Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) of a regular ("annual or almost so") inland visitor, nonetheless, frigatebirds that occur inland in Florida are vagrants.

The distinct seasonal pattern of inland occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in Florida, coupled with the direct relationship of many occurrences with major storms (most are tropical cyclones), corresponds imperfectly with the tropical cyclone season (June-November) in Florida. Inland occurrences of frigatebirds in Florida peaked in September, the peak month for tropical cyclones in Florida (Neumann et al. 1981, Artusa 1988, Williams and Duedall 1995). However, excluding the Panhandle from consideration because of the low number of occurrences, the proportion of inland occurrences of frigatebirds in the Florida peninsula during major storms since 1926 is lower in September (10 out of 29 storms, 34%) than in June (six out of nine storms, 67%). The sharp decline of inland frigatebirds in October, when tropical cyclones are still numerous in Florida (23 in the peninsula since 1926), coincides with a pronounced decrease in the number of frigatebirds in Florida after September, including the southwest Gulf coast (Harrington et al. 1972, Clapp et al. 1982, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). The absence of inland frigatebirds in north Florida and the Panhandle after September except for one report also coincides with a decline in the number of birds along northern coasts after September. While fewer tropical cyclones occur in the Florida peninsula in July compared to other months from June to October, the low number of inland occurrences of frigatebirds in August is difficult to explain since frigatebirds are then numerous along the coast of Florida and tropical cyclones are fairly frequent (18 in the peninsula since 1926; e.g., see Fig. 22 in Artusa 1988). It is possible that this trough during July and August exists because observers are less active during the two hottest and most humid months in Florida.

The large numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds inland in June and September (and once in October) during five storms that landed on, or approached, the Gulf coast of Florida south of Cedar Key, occurred when coastal frigatebird populations are numerous on the central and southern Gulf coasts of Florida (Eisenmann 1962, Harrington et al. 1972, Clapp et al. 1982, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992,

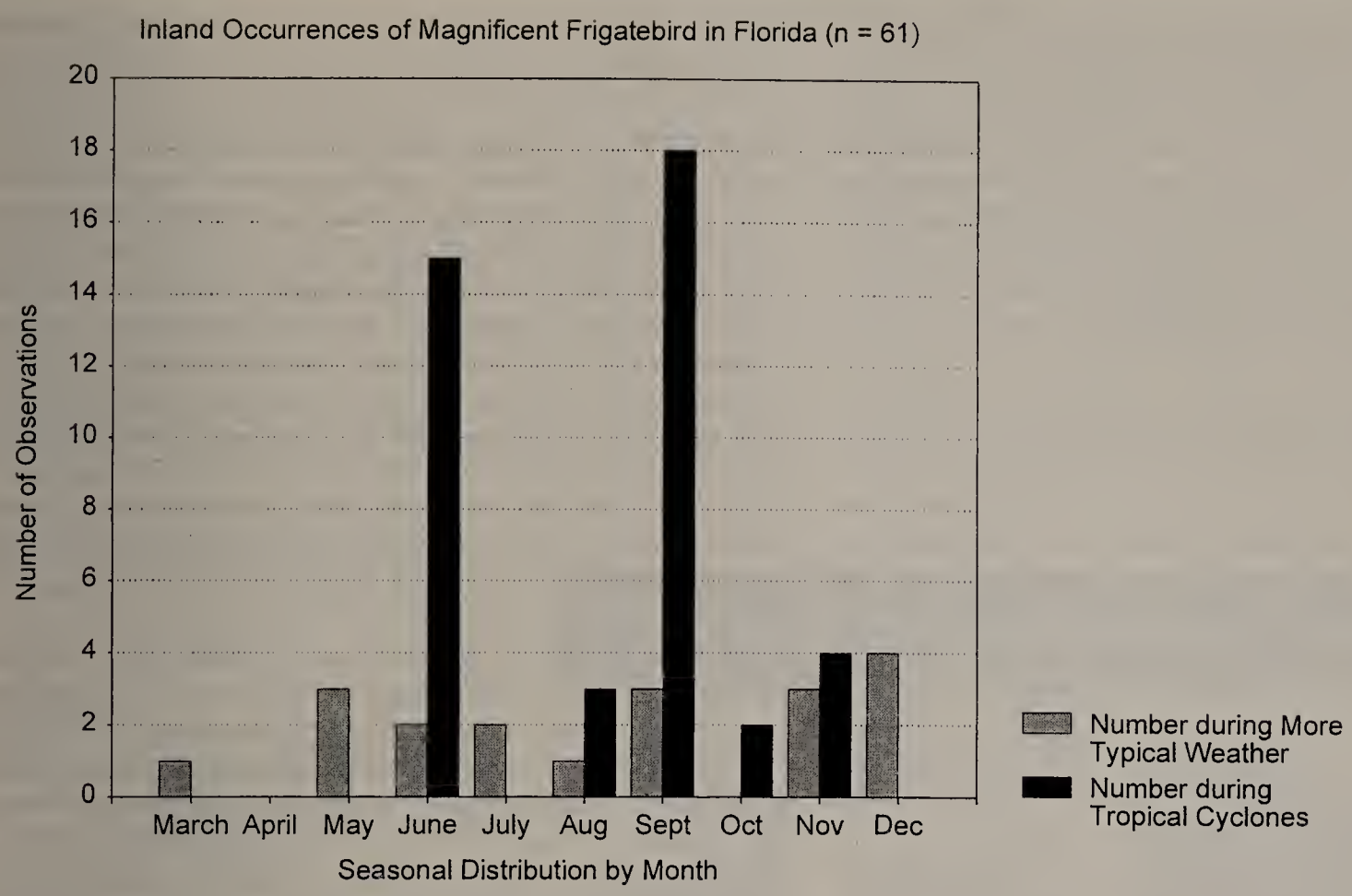

Figure 1. Seasonal distribution by month for Magnificent Frigatebirds that have occurred in the interior of Florida, based on first date of observation.

Robertson and Wilmers 1996). Two of these storms originated in the central and eastern Gulf, and only traveled over open water where frigatebirds are thought to be generally scarce (Eisenmann 1962, Buhrman and Hopkins 1978, Clapp et al. 1982, Childs 1998, Pranty 1999), before reaching the Gulf coast of Florida. It is likely that frigatebirds seen inland during these storms included local birds. Origins of frigatebirds during the other three storms are less certain. The largest count, of at least 127 birds in Polk County in central Florida (Fellers 1988), was associated with Hurricane Elena which originated in southeast Cuba. Elena did not land on the coast of the Florida peninsula, but stalled offshore, approaching no closer than about 80 km, near Cedar Key. Eighteen birds in Alachua County in north Florida were associated with Hurricane Earl. Earl originated in the southwest Gulf of Mexico, passing close to the Chandeleur Islands of Louisiana where Magnificent Frigatebirds are locally abundant during summer (Clapp et al. 1982, Robertson and Wilmers 1996), before coming ashore in the Panhandle of Florida at the boundary of Bay and Gulf counties from where Earl moved into southwest Georgia. Eleven birds in Highlands County in south-central Florida in mid-October were associated with Hurrican Irene. Irene originated in the northwest Caribbean Sea, crossed western Cuba and the Florida Keys, then came ashore on the southern peninsula where the storm passed just to the south of Lake Okeechobee before reaching the Atlantic Ocean.

These seven high counts of frigatebirds in the interior of Florida that are associated with specific storms, the correspondence of larger numbers associated with stronger storms for the remaining observations (a mean difference of over one bird per occurrence compared to more typical weather), the disproportionate number of occurrences at multiple localities during storms, and a mean number of birds per occurrence in the interior of north Florida and the Panhandle not less than in central or south Florida suggest that storms do have an effect on the actual number of frigatebirds that occur in the interior of Florida (*contra* Brinkley 1999), even though usually only single individuals or small flocks (≤7) are reported. Characteristics of specific storms that are associated with large numbers of frigatebirds inland in Florida require further study.

Other than in Florida, large flocks of Magnificent Frigatebirds only have occurred in the interior of the United States in the coastal plain of other states that border the Gulf of Mexico and in the American Southwest in southeast California and Arizona (Mlidonow 1998). Both geographical regions lie adjacent or in proximity to coastal frigatebird populations in the Gulf of Mexico and the Sea of Cortez in northwest Mexico, 120 km south of California and Arizona. Otherwise, counts of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of the United States are low, almost always of one bird (Mlidonow 1998; E. S. Brinkley, unpubl. data). Even during Hurricane Gilbert, which had more occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebird associated with it in the interior of western and eastern North America than any other tropical cyclone, only two occurrences at any single locality were of greater than one bird, of two birds each in Iowa and Oklahoma (Mlidonow 1998; E. S. Brinkley, unpubl. data). Most Magnificent Frigatebirds reported in the interior of the United States are associated with water, e.g., Salton Sea, California (Mlidonow 1998; this study). Frigatebirds are averse to traveling over land even during powerful storms, and prefer to return quickly to open seas (as in Florida; this study). On this basis, the mean of almost three birds per occurrence in the interior of Florida during strong storms is actually rather impressive.

In the coastal plain of the United States bordering the Gulf of Mexico, the largest flocks in the interior are closely associated with both major storms and the largest populations of local frigatebirds, in Florida (this study) and in southeast Louisiana where the highest inland counts of 132 and 61 birds occurred at New Orleans in

September 1998 during and after Hurricane Earl (Jackson 1999), which originated in the western Gulf and passed over the Chandeleur Islands where local frigatebirds are concentrated (op. cit.). In Texas, where frigatebirds are not as numerous as in Florida and Louisiana, nor where they occur year-round as they do in southern Florida, the largest numbers are also associated with tropical cyclones, usually from mid-August to early October, but the numbers are much lower than in Florida or Louisiana, with maxima of nine and five birds during Hurricanes Beulah and Francis (Mlidonow 1998, Lasley et al. 1999).

Unlike most non-random inland occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in Florida and other states bordering the Gulf of Mexico that were associated with tropical cyclones or other major storms, few frigatebirds in the interior of the American Southwest (where observer coverage has also greatly improved over the last several decades) are associated with tropical cyclones which are rare in this region (McCaskie 1970, Kaufman 1977, Patten and Minnich 1997, Patten 1998). The largest number reported during a tropical cyclone was 21 birds east of Yuma, Arizona, in late September 1997 during tropical storm Nora (Patten 1998). The mechanism of dispersal of most frigatebirds, including most large flocks (maximum of 22 birds at Salton Sea, late July 1979; Mlidonow 1998), to the Sonoran Desert (Salton Sea and elsewhere) of southeast California and Arizona is usually different. Magnificent Frigatebirds are associated with annual southerly monsoon air-flows through the Sea of Cortez in conjunction with increases in sea surface temperatures (see Patten and Minnich 1997) that account for an extremely strong non-random pattern of occurrence from June to September, with a peak in July and August when these winds may be accompanied by local thunderstorms (McCaskie 1970, Mlodinow 1998). This weather-induced seasonal distribution of observations of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of the American Southwest is much more concentrated than in Florida, despite the few observations associated with tropical cyclones which would otherwise favor a concentrated period of occurrence.

Other than geographic proximity to local populations of Magnificent Frigatebirds, differences in the geographic configuration of the American Southwest and the Gulf of Mexico (especially the Florida peninsula) in conjunction with the timing and direction of movement contribute toward substantial differences in the seasonal distribution of frigatebirds in the two regions. Magnificent Frigatebirds that disperse into the interior of the American Southwest (Sonoran Desert) are only moving north, funneled by high-elevation land masses on both sides of the narrow peninsular-shaped Sea of Cortez. This movement is especially noticeable during "incursion" years, e.g., 1979 (Mlidonow 1998). In contrast, Magnificent Frigatebirds that disperse to the interior of the Florida peninsula are moving both north and south into a low narrow land mass almost surrounded by water. The absence of large flocks and the scarcity of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the interior of Florida in the absence of storms probably occurs because Florida's geographic configuration is reversed from the American Southwest. Frigatebirds cannot be funneled into the Florida peninsula, despite the prevailing southerly winds during summer when thermals are common (Winsberg 1990).

Magnificent Frigatebirds are adapted to using small thermals over open water for gliding (and soaring) flight by both day and night, since frigatebirds cannot land on water (Pennycuick 1983, 1987). Lesser Frigatebirds *F. ariel*, based on recoveries of banded birds, move long distances over open ocean (Sibley and Clapp 1967). The morphology of Magnificent Frigatebirds is highly similar to Lesser Frigatebirds. Specific adaptations such as low wing-loading (40% more wing area than any seabird of comparable mass; Harrington et al. 1972), high aspect-ratio, long-forked tail to increase lift and maneuverability, and special muscle groups (Kuroda 1961) undoubtedly also allow Magnificent Frigatebirds to move long distances over open seas. This ability would account for the establishment of the isolated concentration of summering birds in the Chandeleur Islands of Louisiana, which cannot be accounted for on the basis of published observations along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Frigatebirds probably glide and soar high directly over the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan (where large numbers breed on Alacran Reef; Robertson and Wilmers 1996) to Louisiana. Thus, frigatebirds are probably more numerous offshore in the Gulf of Mexico (cf. Fritts et al. 1983) than currently documented (Eisenmann 1962, Buhrman and Hopkins 1978, Clapp et al. 1982, Childs 1998, Peake 1996), based on their adaptation to gliding and soaring flight over open water.

Thermals are also numerous over land (mainly type I thermals; Kerlinger 1989), especially during summer in the Florida peninsula which has the highest rate of thunderstorms in the nation (Winsberg 1990). Yet frigatebirds are scarce over land in Florida except during major storms, although some birds have appeared during more typical weather (In Texas, Mlodinow [1998] suggests that some birds within 80 km of the coast also occurred during typical weather). The ability of frigatebirds to glide or soar on thermals or use horizontal wind shear associated with the edge of thunderstorms would allow them to stray over land regularly, yet most frigatebirds in the Gulf of Mexico recognize land boundaries as only a few birds have wandered short distances inland during more typical weather. Just further south of the United States, however, on the long narrow (< 90 km) peninsula of Baja California, large flocks of Magnificent Frigatebirds regularly travel over land from June to August (Clark and Ward 1993) (a few flocks have also occurred over land in southeast Arizona; Mlodinow 1998). Unlike Florida, frigatebirds are not averse to traveling over land in Baja California. The use of thermals in an arid landscape on a narrower peninsula may contribute toward this difference. Regardless, the basis for this difference requires investigation.

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changing seasons

Fall Migration: August–November 1999

Jaegers are normally rare to uncommon transients through the interior of North America, but fall 1999 produced larger numbers than usual in many locales. A Southwestern rarity and only the fifth recorded in Arizona, this adult Pomarine Jaeger was at Paloma Ranch, Maricopa, 8–12 Oct 1999. Photograph/James Burns.

ALAN CONTRERAS
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I beg Rich Stallcup's indulgence for borrowing his book title Birds for Real as a theme for this Changing Seasons. Birds for Real is the underlying basis of North American Birds: we are observers, writers and readers concerned with the actual presence of birds in geographic settings and with the reasons underlying what we discover.

Like many of you, I have recently had the misfortune to see publications in which computer-generated maps purport to show where birds "should" occur. One draft (later corrected) that I saw displayed all sizable water features as habitat where grebes and loons winter; the author did not realize that almost all of the water the maps displayed is absent or frozen in winter. So much for ground-truthing the "data."

Users of North American Birds learn about birds the old-fashioned way: we observe them. Our system of regional reports written by dedicated volunteer editors provides a lasting record of bird reports, careful analysis and commentary. The numerous Special Attention boxes scattered throughout the reports provide a more detailed look at phenomena of special interest. No other venue provides such coverage for North America.

This fall's reports provide both a composite of large-scale continental movements (Northern Saw-whet Owls, White-winged Doves, Common Redpolls), significant multi-regional happenings (jaegers, skuas, Cave Swallows) and unique, fascinating local events (the Great Fallout in Florida, American Oystercatcher breeding in Canada, pelagic owling). The relentless engulfing of temperate (and not-so-temperate: et tu, Saskatchewan?) North America by Eurasian Collared-Doves is chronicled here better than in any other venue—see the paper by Christina Romagosa and Terry McEneaney (1999, *North American Birds* 53:348–353). The vacuum-nozzle effect of hurricanes on seabirds can be found in most of the East Coast reports.

One of the most spectacular, if involuntary, broad-scale movements this fall was of Cave Swallows sucked into northeastern North America in unprecedented numbers. A powerful northbound weather system inhaled the birds at some unknown southerly location and spat them out in small packets (with help from a timely nor'wester) from Michigan to Quebec and along most of the eastern seaboard. This species has been reported at Cape May every year since 1992, but observers hardly expected 35 of them this year! The largest number (44) were reported in the unlikely locale of Lake Erie, where they were seen at several places in s. Ontario, with most in the Pt. Pelee area (see the cover). New England, which had not reported the species before, had several small flocks in New York and Connecticut. See Margaret J. C. Bain's excellent account of this event in the Ontario report, the SA box in the New England report and other regional reports.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl made every effort to become the Southern Saw-whet Owl this fall, with astonishing counts from banding stations including very high proportions of immatures, typical of peak years. The most detailed account of this year's huge continent-wide Saw-whet movement can be found in Marshall Iliff's Middle Atlantic Coast report. Studies in that region are finding that adult birds move weeks earlier and prefer montane regions, while coastal movements involve juveniles early and adults (stragglers?) later in the season. Peak one-night counts included 173 at Kiptopeke, Virginia, 136 at Cape May, New Jersey, 54 at Boise Ridge, Idaho, and 31 in Quebec. Boise Ridge averaged 38.8 owls per night for nine days in early October and had a seasonal total of 848 Saw-whets. They also captured 2 Boreal Owls—were these local birds at the edge of their range or birds moving to an as-yet-unknown wintering ground? In 1999 the same station banded only 60 owls. Speaking of owls, Louisiana found three species (one of which was a second state record) well offshore on oilrigs; see the regional report for details. A Saw-whet came aboard ship 70 miles off Montauk, NJ. Pelagic owling here we come!

More customary seabirds were well reported, with many unusual records. Skuas appeared in remarkable numbers, with notable sea-

sonal accumulations including 34 South Polar in the Oregon-Washington region, one in the Aleutians, eight at the Farallons off central California (double the previous seasonal high), high counts at other California locations, and a record 7 in one day off Cape Hatteras. A high of 33 skuas, including at least 11 Greats, was off the Atlantic Provinces.

Jaegers also made an impressive showing, with unimaginable numbers at Lake Champlain, where 23 birds, more than all previous Vermont records combined, were seen from one observation point during a five-week period. Many New York records were made at the same time, and movements on nearby Lake Ontario were also substantial. Jaeger movements were described as "unprecedented" along Lakes Michigan and Erie (with daily counts of up to 27 birds) and high throughout the Middlewestern Prairie region, Southern Great Plains, Ontario, and the nearshore Gulf of Mexico. Even regions with limited habitat such as Idaho, Appalachia, and Arizona (Fig. 1) found many jaegers in fall 1999. Only the western Great Lakes reported lower than usual numbers. The fact that there are still no specimens of Pomarine or Parasitic Jaeger from Vermont and that many of the 1999 birds could not surely be identified to species (though most seemed to be Pomarine) argues for limited collecting during flight years to establish a baseline from which future researchers and observers can work.

Common Redpolls made what looked to be a record-setting surge across much of the continent, penetrating early to quite southerly locales (e.g. southeastern Delaware on the record early date of Oct. 31, central Oregon, southeastern Colorado, northern Virginia), but numbers were not especially high and the incursion was more limited in the Midwest. The November outwash seemed to release whatever energy the movement had, perhaps simply because the birds arrived where food was adequate. By late fall the front of the movement came to relative rest.

There were other movements of more mundane species. Imagine the sight of over a million American Robins accompanied by "tens of thousands" of goldfinches, bluebirds, waxwings, blackbirds and sparrows working their way down Delaware Bay and arriving en masse at Cape May (the same day as the huge nighttime Saw-whet movement).

Of rarities there were plenty, and I will let you candy-dive in the reports to find the ones that excite you. A few stand out: North America's first Yellow-browed Warbler at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska; an Oriental Cuckoo there for dessert; a Eurasian Kestrel in Washington; a Harlequin Duck at Midway Island, Hawaii; Ontario's first Heermann's Gull; Common Cranes in Quebec and Indiana; eight Common House-Martins in the West Indies; a Red-necked Stint in New Jersey; a Violet-crowned Hummingbird in extreme northwestern California (the Region's second); many other wandering hummers, including the first documented Broad-tailed Hummingbird for Oklahoma; a Red-billed Tropicbird and Snow Bunting (have these species previously met?) in Alabama; a Ringed Kingfisher and Tropical Parula at the same time and location in Louisiana; and a spectacular fallout of migrants in n. Florida, including the state's second verified Kirtland's Warbler—the first was in 1896. The presence of a young bird confirmed breeding of American Oystercatcher in Canada. Two species of southwestern or Mexican origin reached maritime e. Canada. Two different Wandering Tattlers banded in Alaska appeared in Hawaii, the first time banded tattlers have been shown to take that route.

In addition to the more spectacular rarities, some reports of less rare birds are nonetheless attention-grabbers: a Brown Pelican chowing down on a Greater Shearwater; Alaska's second Ovenbird specimen found already neatly frozen for the state's second fall record; three Red-bellied Woodpeckers arriving on a fishing boat 45 miles out in the North Atlantic; and one-half of a Yellow Rail found in northern California. Given the documented tendency of Northern Saw-whet Owls to eat only half of prey items, perhaps the rail was in the wrong place during this flight year for owls.

Species make convenient units through which to study birds and to organize our published thoughts about them. This makes sense up to a point. However, to be more useful to our readers, we ought to report identifiable subspecies when such reports would help us understand the species in the full breadth of its ecological setting. Sometimes the lack of such a documented record makes trends and status difficult to determine. As Dale Zimmerman put it 25 years ago in the Changing Seasons for the fall migration of 1974, "now elevated to specific status, Thayer's Gulls miraculously appear."

We need to understand birds as populations. In that regard, no better widespread mechanism is available than identifiable subspecies. The late Allan Phillips pointed out that many subspecies come pre-marked by nature and that "fear of subspecies is not only unscientific; it can hamper rational efforts to conserve 'biological diversity'" ("Why neglect the difficult?," *Western Birds* 6:69–86). Not all subspecies can be identified in the field or even in the hand (consider the wood-pewees or the Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers), but in many cases they do not need to be caught or collected (though careful measurements or even tissue samples from a banding station can be of great help in identifying some).

With this in mind, it is heartening to see a report of an in-hand Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow in Maryland. Likewise, a report of another non-species, a hybrid calidrid in Newfoundland thought to be a White-rumped ˇ Pectoral Sandpiper, is a useful reminder that birds do not always play by the field guide rules. Observers in the Pacific Northwest have had serious discussions for years about what features (if any) allow "pure" pink-footed gulls to be identifiable in the field, yet no one, myself included, routinely includes counts of them in published field notes. Hybrids simply do not get reported, yet most large gulls in some winter flocks are probably hybrids. That piece of information is an important one that does not get into *North American Birds* very often or very clearly.

Our attention to Birds for Real—actual data gathered and published for posterity—allows the Hudson-Delaware regional editors to note that in 1977 there were 60 Peregrine Falcons reported at Cape May all season. This year there were 833. Thank you, Rachel Carson, and kudos to The Peregrine Fund. Looking back 50 years to the 1949 fall migration report, we can read Ludlow Griscom's account of 15,000 American Black Ducks at one site in Massachusetts and a "rare" American Redstart in California. Upon such record-keeping is the foundation of truly useful field ornithology built.

The late Patrick O'Brian included in his novels many specific birds correctly identified as well as some that escape the firearms of science, at least in a hypothetical 1805. His co-leading character Dr. Stephen Maturin always insists on the greatest care in scientific accuracy: what other serious fiction includes a detailed discussion of frigatebird bone structure? We hope that the content and spirit of the reports you will find in *North American Birds*—a plain statement of Birds for Real as we understand them—meets Dr. Maturin's high standard.

I thank David Fix for many useful comments on an earlier draft of this essay.

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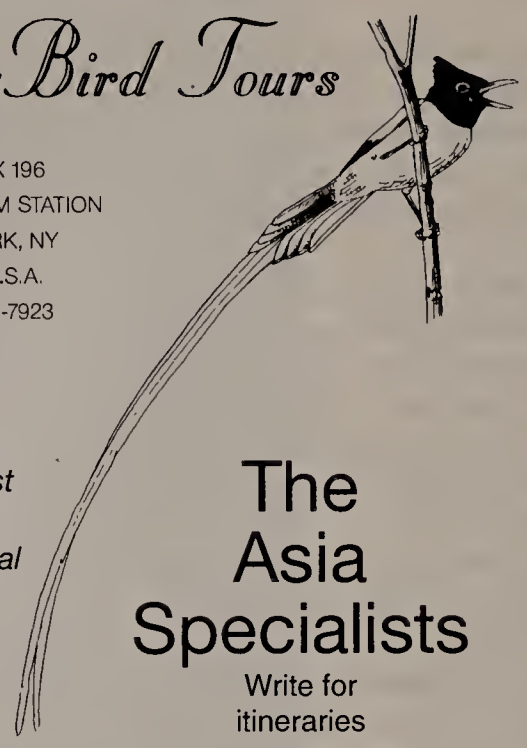

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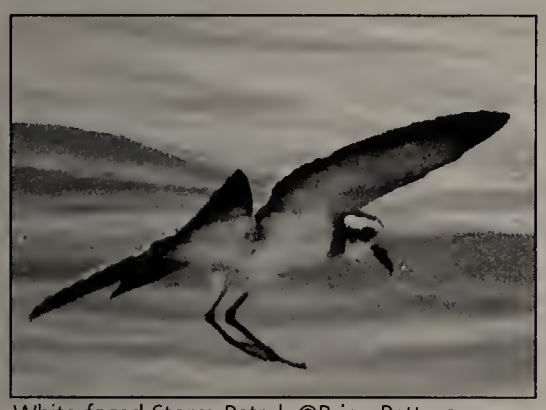

White-faced Storm-Petrel, ©Brian Patteson

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Abbreviations used in the names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenal or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

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The Region experienced a pleasantly warm autumn. The tail end of several hurricanes brushed by with little avian impact. The highlights of the season may seem off-the-wall and unpredictable, yet each exotic rarity and every momentous migrational event were all parts of patterns that have already been detected. Avid readers of *North American Birds* will know that the Broad-billed Hummingbird in New Brunswick and the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Nova Scotia are northeastward extensions of recognized patterns. The autumn of 1999 produced many fascinating data points that strengthen and refine existing patterns of occurrence.

Abbreviations: CBI *(Cape Brenton Island, Nova Scotia)*; CSI *(Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia)*; GMI *(Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick)*; SPM *(St. Pierre et Miquelon)*.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A ***Pacific Loon*** observed from a boat one mile e. of Ross I., Bay of Fundy, NB, 25 Sep was photographed for the second confirmed provincial record (ST et al.). Cory's Shearwaters n. and e. of their usual range were three near Funk I., NF, 7 Aug (SG) and one from the Argentia ferry, NF, 24 Aug (DCa). A ne. gale sent 14,000 Greater and 6,000 Sooty Shearwaters s. past Cape Spear, NF, in four hours 19 Sep (BMt). Most noteworthy of several Nov shearwater reports was that of 500 Greater and one Sooty in Grand Manan I. channel, NB, 23 Nov (RL). High counts of Manx Shearwater were 70 on 21 Aug, Brier I., NS (KM), and 134 on 6 Sep off Cape Spear (BMt). Fifteen thousand Leach's Storm-Petrels flew s. past Cape Spear in two hours during a ne. gale 23 Sep (BMt).

Most "southern" herons were restricted to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with respective totals of five and two Great Egrets, two and no Snowy Egrets, three and no Little Blue Herons, two and no Tricolored Herons, six and two Cattle Egrets, and two and one Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Another Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at St. Pierre, SPM, 12 Aug (BL). A phenomenal 125 Turkey Vultures were in migration over Brier I. 11 Oct (*fide* IM). The season's **Black Vulture** was at Petite-Lamèque 30 Aug–4 Sep (HC).

There was an early Gr. White-fronted Goose at Summerside, PEI, 2 Oct (DT). Three Brant were rarities at St. Paul's Inlet, NF, 6 Sep (*fide* JP). The male **Garganey** that summered at Bellisle Marsh, NS, was last seen 23 Aug (*fide* IM). An adult male **Cinnamon Teal** at Daniels Harbour, CSI, 27 Sep–7 Oct provided one of the few confirmed records for the Region (MN et al.). The only Common Teal were several during Nov at St. John's, NF (TB et al.). Eur. Wigeon were at recent norms, with totals of one in NB, six in NS, and eleven in NF. Tufted Duck totals were three in Nova Scotia and six in Newfoundland. An impressive migration of scoters was noted at Pt. Lepreau, NB, 3 Oct, with 5,403 Black, 7,445 Surf, and 1,008 White-winged Scoters (*fide* DCh). Ruddy Ducks staged the largest autumn influx in years, with minimum totals of 60 in NB, 40 in NS, and one each in PEI and NF.

Peak days of migration of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Brier I. were 200 on 26 Sep and 500 on 8–11 Oct (*fide* RN). Broad-winged Hawks peaked at Brier I. 25–26 Sep when 1,100 flew sw. out to sea (BMy). Purple Gallinules were singles at Jacques River, NB, 7 Oct (LD), Big Salmon R., NB, 10–11 Oct (*fide* DCh), and Dartmouth, NS in late Oct (*fide* BMy). Single Sandhill Cranes were at Petite-Lamèque, NB, 5–8 Sep (JC et al.), Lanark, NS, 26 Sep–30 Nov (AC et al.), and Middleton, NS, 3 Nov (RP).

SHOREBIRDS

A **Northern Lapwing** was fully appreciated by birders and curious tourists next to a parking lot at Cape Spear 17–19 Nov (m.ob.). A juv. **American Oystercatcher** with three adults at CSI 21 Aug was the first actual young produced in Canada after two years with unsuccessful nests (MN et al.). Five **Black-necked Stilts** put down for only 15 minutes at Windsor Causeway, NS, 17 Sep during the tail-end of a hurricane, providing the sixth provincial record (JC, BMo). Nova Scotia's second and the Region's third **Common Greenshank** was at Daniels Head, CSI, 10 Sep (MN, JN). A high of eight Marbled Godwits was reported, with singles at Castalia, GMI, 28 Aug (CC et al.) with a different bird there 6 Sep (*fide* BD); Maisonnette Dune 20 Sep (MD); St. Andrews 20 Sep (TD); Saints Rest Marsh 1 Oct (NG et al.); and in Nova Scotia with two at Big I., *Pictou*, 20–26 Aug (KM, JM) and one Dominion Beach, CBI, 6–7 Sep (AM, CM). Maximum counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers from traditional staging sites in the upper Bay of Fundy were 300,000 at Johnsons Mills, NB, 31 Jul (*fide* DCh), 200,000 at Mary's Pt., NB, 4 Aug (DCh), 300,000 at Dorchester Cape, NB, 7 Aug (BB), and 250,000 at Evangeline Beach, NS, 6 Aug (JT). Western Sandpipers, always rare in the Region, were reported in typical numbers, with four in NB and two in NS. An odd *Calidris* studied at Spaniards Bay, NF, 7–10 Sep was thought to be a hybrid White-rumped Sandpiper ˘ Pectoral Sandpiper (PL, BMt et al.)! It was a banner

This stunning Curlew Sandpiper in juvenal plumage was at Spaniard's Bay, Newfoundland, 29–31 Aug 1999, with the image captured on the first date of its visit. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish

Exhibiting some unusual behavior was this juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger that fed on berries alongside Whimbrels at Cape Race, Newfoundland, 2 Sep 1999. Photograph/ Bruce Mactavish

autumn for Curlew Sandpipers, with six individuals, including two juveniles: one ad. 10 Sep at Long Pond, GMI, (*fide* BD), one ad. 8 Aug at Port Morien, CBI, (AM, CM et al.), one not aged 6–11 Sep at Hartlen Pt., NS (IM et al.), one not aged 6–26 Sep at CSI (MN, JN), a juv. 29–31 Aug at Spaniards Bay, NF (PL et al.), and a late juv. 11 Nov at Cape Race, NF (KK, JW). Regional totals of the traditional "western sandpipers" were near normal, with 23 Baird's, 14 Stilts, and 27 Buff-breasteds. Single Ruffs were at Sydney, NS, 5–6 Sep (RK, SM), St. Paul's Inlet, NF, 22 Aug (MV at al.), and Cape Freels, NF, 4 Oct (KB). Details on the few Long-billed Dowitcher reports were scant, but one at CSI 27 Oct was the right time of year (MN). Unusual was the late appearance of 300–500 Red Phalaropes feeding close to shore at Cape Spear 30 Oct–8 Nov (JP et al.).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger fed on berries with Whimbrels at Cape Race, NF, 2 Sep (KK, BMt). Five Laughing Gulls were reported regionwide, close to par, with one in NF and two each in NB and NS. Little Gulls reported were one 6–7 Sep at Cap Brulé, NB, (RM), one 10 Oct at Miscou I. lighthouse, NB (RG), and three 20–30 Nov at Ogdens Pond, NS (*fide* BMy). The autumn peak of Black-headed Gull at well-watched St. John's was a mediocre 90 on 3 Nov (TB). An impressive 50,000 Bonaparte's Gull were between Campobello I., NB, and Eastport, ME, 16 Nov (NF). An ad. **Black-tailed Gull** was the star attraction at a ballfield in N. Sydney, CBI, 21–24 Oct (RT et al.); it was the second individual for Nova Scotia and third for the Region. An early first-winter Common Gull arriving 15 Oct at St. John's was joined by another first-winter and an adult in Nov (BMt). The only other Mew Gull was an ad. 6–13 Nov at Glace Bay, CBI (RK et al.). There has been a distinct increase in Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Region in last two years. This season's totals were eight in NB, three at PEI, 14 in NS, and 15 in NF. The only Sabine's Gull was a juvenile 24 Sep at East Point, PEI, where very rare (PJ).

Presumably displaced by a hurricane, single **Royal Terns** were at CSI 23 Sep (JN) and Sable I., NS, 24 Sep (ZL). Unexpected was a non-storm-related **Sandwich Tern** in n. New Brunswick at Miscou I. 2–4 Aug (HC, MD et al.). Consistently rare over the decades in the Region, a Forster's Tern was at Sable I. 28 Oct (ZL). A ne. gale at Cape Spear 14 Nov caused a large flight of alcids, including 25,000 Dovekies and 6,000 Thick-billed Murres during the first two hours of daylight (BMt).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

It was a banner autumn for **White-winged Dove,** with one 13–17 Oct at Pointe-Verte, NB (RG), one 19 Oct at Sable I. (ZL), and one 10–14 Nov at Miquelon, SPM (RE et al.). It was a huge autumn for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with the peak influx 20 Sep–5 Oct. They were virtually common in New Brunswick, including 25 on GMI 27 Sep (BD). All told, 61 were reported in Nova Scotia and nine in Newfoundland.

The bird of the season was a female **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at Keith Warren's feeder near Elgin, *Albert,* NB. Probably appearing in late Sep, it was not brought to the attention of the birding community until 19 Oct (DCh, MM). It was viewed by 200 observers until it was captured 25 Oct and brought into a greenhouse for care. It was a first for the Region and a second for Canada. A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was at Barrington, NS, 23 Aug (*fide* JN). Whereas there was a high total of seven Red-headed Woodpeckers in New Brunswick, surprisingly the species was not reported in Nova Scotia. Red-bellied Woodpecker staged a good late Oct flight into the sw. part of the Region only, with ten in NB and five in NS. A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** seen well and photographed on Sable I. 21 Sep provided a provincial first but amazingly the third for the Region (ZL). There were six W. Kingbirds, one in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and one in Saint Pierre et Miquelon. All areas reported good numbers of N. Shrikes beginning in late Oct.

White-eyed Vireos were singles at McAdam, NB, 11 Oct (JL), Halifax, NS, 31 Oct (DC, AV), and Sable I. 1 Nov (ZL). Two swallows casually identified as Cliff Swallows at Cape Jourimain, NB, 8 Nov, could have been part of the extraordinary northward incursion of Cave Swallows documented in Ontario and the Northeast at that time (*fide* DCh). Newfoundland's fourth Marsh Wren was at Blackhead 17–18 Oct (DB). Although Blue-gray Gnatcatchers

SA The well-above-average Regional total of 33 skuas was probably a reflection of an increased seabirding effort and luck! The breakdown by province is as follows. New Brunswick: two Great Skuas east of White Head I., Bay of Fundy, 25 Sep (ST et al.) and one Great Skua off GMI 27 Nov (AS). Prince Edward Island: one Great Skua off East Pt. 11 Sep (RC et al.). Nova Scotia: one Great Skua off Brier I. 6 Sep (JT), another in Cabot Strait 31 Oct (RK), five to eight South Polar Skuas on whale-watching trips off Brier I. in "late summer and early fall" (CH); single skuas unidentified to species were at Brier I. 9 Sep (BMy), and 10 Oct (CH) and at Cape Sable I. 18 Oct (m.ob.). Newfoundland: ne. gales produced two Great Skuas and three skua sp. at Cape St. Francis 4 Sep (JP, JW); and at Cape Spear one skua sp. 4 Sep, one Great Skua and ten (!) skua sp. 18 Sep, one Great Skua 23 Sep, one Great Skua 6 Oct (BMt). It was gratifying to receive details on most of the Great Skuas. Identifying these beasts at sea remains difficult. The status of South Polar and Great Skuas in the Region is still far from clear.

were considered unusually scarce, a surprising five were at East Point, PEI, 24 Sep (PJ). The only two N. Wheatears were at Grand Barachois, SPM, 9 Sep (LJ, RE) and St. John's 19 Sep (MR). All areas reported more N. Mockingbirds than normal. A probable Yellow Wagtail was seen briefly at Cape Spear 19 Nov (DB); the record is pending approval by the Newfoundland Records Committee. Bohemian Waxwings staged an early and large flight. Some were present all summer in Newfoundland. The first migrants hit New Brunswick in late Sep. During the last ten days of Oct and into Nov, they were common in n. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. By the end of Nov a flock of 2,000 had accumulated in St. John's.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Numbers of southern warblers were deemed low across the Region, probably a reflection of weather patterns rather than population changes. Blue-winged Warblers were at GMI 25 Aug (BD), Baccaro, NS, 22 Aug (*fide* AHo), and St. Anthony, NF, 8 Sep (DF). A Golden-winged Warbler was at GMI 10 Sep (*fide* DC). Yellow-throated Warblers were at Sable Island 1 Sep (ZL), Kingston, NS, 29 Nov (PG), St. Pierre, SPM, 7–27 Nov (PA), and St. John's 6 Oct (TB) and 13–30 Nov (PL). A imm. female Cerulean Warbler was photographed 30 Aug at Brier I. (LL et al.). Prothonotary Warblers were at Sable I. 15 Sep (ZL) and Rainbow Haven, NS, 2 Oct (*fide* AHo); a much-appreciated male appeared 16–26 Oct at Bear Cove, NF (BMt et al.). Two Worm-eating Warblers were at CSI 12 Sep (MN). Hooded Warblers appeared 6 Sep at Pubnico Pt., NS (RD), 15 Sep at Sable I. (ZL), and 22 Oct at St. John's (DB). A Pine Warbler was far e. at St. John's 13–25 Nov (JP et al.). Prairie Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were in average to slightly below average numbers.

Late Scarlet Tanagers were 4–6 Nov at Campellton, NB (BG), 7–12 Nov at Charlottetown, NF (*fide* GS), and 10–13 Nov at St. John's (AHu et al.). Summer Tanagers were one 13–16 Oct at Brier I. and two 20–21 Oct at Seal I., NS (*fide* DMcC). It was a better-than-average autumn for Clay-colored and Lark Sparrows, with respective provincial totals of four and seven in NB, nine and four in NS, and one and two in NF. A Field Sparrow at Blackhead 17 Oct–2 Nov was one of the few ever in Newfoundland (DB, TB). The annual late Oct and Nov influx of N. Cardinals into s. New Brunswick and Nova Scoita was the strongest since 1995. Blue Grosbeak totals were back to normal after a couple of banner years, with five in NB, three in NS, and one in SPM. Dickcissels were seen in somewhat above-average numbers, being too plentiful for contributors to accurately total. An E. Meadowlark was rare at St. John's 15–30 Nov (BMt et al.). Nova Scotia scored the most Yellow-headed Blackbirds, with seven individuals spread over the province Aug–Nov; New Brunswick and Newfoundland each had one. The only Orchard Oriole was a late bird in early Oct at CSI (AM, CM). A massive flight of Com. Redpolls was noted in NB and NS beginning ±20 Oct and continuing through Nov. Other finch species were in poor to fair numbers.

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québec

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Fall temperatures continued to be above average with the exception of October. The summer drought, which lasted until early September, came to an end after remnants of Hurricane *Floyd* dumped up to four inches of rain in some parts of southern Québec. October and November were also quite wet. It was an excellent autumn for rarities, with the addition of three new species to the Québec list of birds: Common Crane, Cave Swallow, and Swainson's Warbler.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Not seen every year in s. Québec, single Pacific Loons in Cacouna 11 Oct (L. Messely) and in Newport 31 Oct (PP, D. Mercier, J. R. Lepage) were welcome sightings. *Procellariidae* made a good incursion into the St. Lawrence estuary in late Sep and early Oct. A round-trip aboard the Trois-Pistoles-Les Escoumins ferry 2 Oct produced seven N. Fulmars, one Greater Shearwater, one Sooty Shearwater, and one Manx Shearwater (JPO, ML). Other trips made during the same period were also quite productive. The Matane-Godbout ferry yielded two Wilson's Storm-Petrels 11 Aug (L. Roy) and one was detected from shore in Rivière-Saint-Charles 19 Oct (JFR, S. Blais).

A white pelican seen from a great distance in Rivière-Ouelle 22 Aug could not be identified to the species (JFR, I. Simard) but one videotaped in Lac des Iles, near Mont-Laurier, 25 Jul, was undoubtedly an Am. White Pelican (P. Moffatt). Last year's respectable count of 10 Great Egrets in St.-Timothée was almost trivial compared to 30 that gathered in the same area throughout Aug (m.ob.). Flocks of 14 and 17 individuals appeared in Saint-Barthélemy 7 Aug (LS) and in Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville 28 Aug, respectively (ND, D. Jauvin). Smaller flocks were seen in different localities and one strayed e. to Cap-des-Rosiers 11 Aug (I.

An adult Common Crane (left) with a Sandhill Crane at Barraute, Quebec, 1–7 Oct 1999 sparked controversy and speculation. The partly hidden bird is an immature believed to be a hybrid and the natural occurrence of these birds remains a mystery. Photograph/Sylvie Gagnon

SA Already welcoming birders on their property in Barraute, *Abitibi,* farm owners Lise Larose and Ghislain Galarneau received far more visitors after their discovery of an ad. Common Crane 1–7 Oct, for a most unexpected first Québec record. It was soon learned that it accompanied an ad. Sandhill Crane and two juveniles and that it was behaving as the head of the group (leading take-offs and presenting food to the young). According to descriptions provided by some observers (S. Gagnon, B. Wilson), the young cranes had contrasting dark flight feathers like the ad. Common Crane, suggesting the possibility that they were hybrids.

Another surprise was awaiting the birding community when it was learned that two odd-looking cranes were seen and photographed with a flock of Sandhill Cranes at Saint-Augustin, *Lac Saint-Jean,* 20–22 Sep (S. Boivin, M. Tremblay, D. Gervais). Both birds had black head markings, unlike Sandhills but not quite right for Commons, and a white cheek patch, the shape and extent of which was incorrect for Commons but somewhat reminiscent of Sandhills. Hybrids again, at least one-year-old in this case, were the most likely possibility.

The approximately 10 previous Common Crane records in N. America are from the w. states and provinces and assumed to be vagrants from e. Siberia, perhaps associating with breeding Sandhill Cranes en route to American winter quarters. A Common Crane with "stiff toes" on its left foot seen and photographed in Whiting, VT, 9–10 Jun 1991 was determined to be an escaped bird from a Catskill Mts. aviculturist (*Am. Birds* 45:1094). Perhaps this same Common Crane with damaged toes was photographed in Jan 1993 in Cumberland, NJ (*fide* P. Lehman). It mated with a Sandhill Crane and produced young in 1994 and 1995 (*Field Notes* 49: 912) and was seen at Bridgeton, NJ, 16 Mar 1996 (*Field Notes* 50: 259).

In view of the longevity of cranes, is it really impossible that the odd-looking Saint-Augustin's cranes were not the 1995 New Jersey hybrid offspring? Is it really impossible that the Barraute's Common Crane was not the now-healed limping bird recorded in New England 1991–1996? Or was it the Common Crane reported in Nebraska in early Mar 1999 (*Winging It* 11(4):3)? At any rate, the origins of many birds reported in N. America, including the Barraute's Common Crane, remain undetermined.

Morris, D. Sigouin). A late movement of Cattle Egrets produced single birds in Dorval 10 Nov (C. Millier) and Rock Forest 11 Nov (W. King). Single Glossy Ibises visited five localities of extreme s. Québec in Aug and Sep. The now almost-routine northward wandering of the Black Vulture furnished another record for the Gaspé Pen. when a bird visited Matapédia 16–18 Aug (L. Tremblay).

Five Gr. White-fronted Geese and far more numerous than usual Ross's Geese were found among flocks of migrating Snow Geese and Canada Geese. A flock of 72 Brants in Château-Richer 30 Nov was unusual for the late date (G. Harvey). The fascinating comings and goings of last summer's **Whooper Swans** continued to hold the birding community's attention. Three remained in Ilets Jérémie on the n. shore of the St. Lawrence until 9 Aug (A. Gosselin, R. Gilbert). Then, a total of five birds were back on the s. shore in l'Isle-Verte 2–4 Sep (D. Labarre). Another, probably of different origin considering the dates, was discovered in Granby 19 Aug (ND et al.) and moved to nearby Bromont 16–26 Sep (JJ. Hamel, F. Surprenant). Tundra Swans were reported only from the Saguenay-Lac-St.-Jean area, where a flock of 10 visited Sainte-Marguerite-Marie 13 Sep (C. Norton, L. Villeneuve); one appeared in La Baie 29 Oct (CC, GS). The Canvasback, once a regular fall migrant in s. Québec, was absent from the Montréal area. The only reports involved singles in La Baie 17–19 Oct (S. Tremblay et al.) and Baie-du-Febvre 15 Oct (*fide* N. Roy).

HAWKS THROUGH CUCKOOS

Tadoussac and Montréal are the only hawkwatches regularly monitored in the Region. The Cap-Tourmente N.W.A., probably one of the best hawkwatches in the Region, unfortunately is not monitored on a regular basis. This year, Tadoussac produced a record flight of 24,690 hawks (mean = 15,054 for 1993–98). Bald and Golden Eagles, Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged Hawks, Am. Kestrels, and Merlins were almost twice as numerous as usual (CA, CG). This exceptional flight was not paralleled farther s. in Montréal, where migration was at best average (M. McIntosh, B. Barnhurst). Extralimital hawks included a Red-shouldered 12 Aug in Radisson, 600 km n. of its range (M. Thibault), and a Cooper's in Trois-Pistoles 30 Oct (J. Hardy). A Regional total of eight Gyrfalcons was high compared to last year's low of only two. Purple Gallinules continued to make news. Juveniles were found in Saint-Gédéon 17–20 Sep (CC, GS et al.) and Lennoxville 12 Nov (C. Dufresne, JPM).

The shorebird season was neither good nor bad. The only unusual sightings included an Am. Avocet in l'Isle-Verte 11 Aug (JPO), a W. Sandpiper in Rivière-Ouelle 4 Sep (F. Dion, R. Dion), and single Ruffs in the Sainte-Martine and Saint-Étienne area 19–20 Sep (LS) and in Rimouski 1 Nov (G. Gendron). Long-billed Dowitchers, although not as abundant as last fall, continued to be well in evidence in the Montréal area. Always causing a lot of excitement, Red Phalaropes at inland localities were in Napierville 9–12 Oct (M. Poulin et al.) and Cap-Saint-Ignace 13 Sep (JFR). Among our

regular vagrant gulls were eight Laughings, two Franklin's, 16 Lesser Black-backeds, and six Sabine's. A first-summer Sabine's, unusual in this plumage, was noteworthy in Métabetchouan 7 Aug (CC, GS). The late-summer dispersal of Caspian Terns in s. Québec produced a remarkable flock of 28 birds in Maple-Grove 15 Aug (PB). Dovekies were well reported in St. Lawrence estuary in Nov, with an exceptional flight of 458 birds noted from shore in Les Escoumins 20 Nov (CA, CG). Out-of-range Atlantic Puffins included three in Ile Saint-Barnabé, *Rimouski*, 1 Aug (D. Ouellet), and one and two from the Trois-Pistoles ferry 28 Sep (CA, GC) and 2 Oct (JPO, ML), respectively.

Also becoming a more or less regular vagrant in recent years, a **White-winged Dove,** the latest ever in the Region, showed up in Rimouski 19 Nov (RS). At least 15 Yellow-billed Cuckoos turned up 14 Sep–3 Oct, a remarkable but not unprecedented flight. The significance of such northward fall movements remains a mystery, as the species is almost unrecorded in the Region during summer.

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

At the Tadoussac banding station, 231 N. Saw-whet Owls were banded 7 Sep–31 Oct (J. Ibarzabal). A Canadian Wildlife Service banding project initiated in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. yielded 31 during the night of 4–5 Oct (JFR, J. Potvin). One mist-netted at 11:55 p.m. 18 Oct in Tadoussac was recaptured in Cap-Tourmente the following night, a 150-km flight to the sw. in 24 hours.

An ad. male **Rufous Hummingbird,** regularly visiting a feeder in Eastman, *Estrie*, late Sep through Dec (HS) survived a heavy snowfall in mid-Nov and a temperature of –13°C in early Dec. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at a feeder in Lavernière 19–24 Oct (m.ob.) represented a rare occurrence for the Magdalen Is. archipelago. An ad. male Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Ile des Sœurs, 10–11 Oct (G. Larose, C. Pouliot); a female in Port-Daniel 29 Oct (A. Langlois) was probably the same one feeding on sunflower seeds in Chandler 6–7 Nov (G. Belvin, *fide* PP). Unsexed birds also appeared in Québec City 19 Nov (F. Girardin) and Marbleton, *Estrie*, 20 Nov (D. Labbé, B. Turgeon).

Tufted Titmice made a good showing within their recently established breeding range, with numerous birds recorded between Montréal and Sherbrooke. They also wandered well beyond this range, with at least two in Lévis 6 Nov+ and singles in Morrissette-Station, *Beauce*, 18 Oct (M. Labonté, L. Dufour), St.-Nicolas, 13 Nov+ (L. Turgeon, N. Audet), and St.-Pamphile, *L'Islet*, 19 Oct (M. Pelletier). White-breasted Nuthatches made an exceptional showing in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Lower-St.Lawrence, and Gaspésie regions. In Nov, Carolina Wrens were well reported, as evidenced by two in Philipsburg and singles in Pike River, Sainte-Julie, *Montérégie*, and Cowansville. A House Wren in Sept-Iles 24 Oct was both late and out of range (J. F. Laporte). A Varied Thrush reported from Beaudry 21 Nov+ provided a first record for the Abitibi region (D. Nadeau).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Brewster's Warbler with yellow restricted to the crown and wing patches was carefully observed in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 9 Oct (AC). Earlier in the season a bird lingered in Frelighsburg 15 Aug–1 Sep (BH, m. ob.). A Blue-winged Warbler stopped briefly in the Montréal Botanical Gardens 9 Sep (G. Leduc). A first record and long awaited in the Region was a well-described **Swainson's Warbler** in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 21 Oct (JMG). A Hooded Warbler, the latest ever in the Region, made a brief stop in Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 17 Oct (ML). Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. continued to produce its load of rarities this season, with a Yellow-breasted Chat feeding on wild berries 25–28 Oct, a new record late date for the Region (JMG, JPO). Another was reported from Saint-Anaclet, *Rimouski*, 23 Sep (F. Proulx).

Rare in northeastern North America, this immature Lark Sparrow was at Cap-Tourmente National Wildlife Area, Quebec, 16 Oct 1999. Photograph/Michèle Lafleur

An imm. Summer Tanager was feeding from the berries of a wild vine in Roberval 17 Oct–6 Nov (L. Chiricota, C. Boivin, ph.); possibly the same bird was relocated in La Baie 7–10 Nov (J. and M. Rochefort et al.). Now an annual fall event, single Dickcissels were at feeders in two locales in the Lower-St. Lawrence region: Rimouski 23–25 Oct (RS, J. Larivée, ph.) and 2 Nov (L. Ouellet). and Pointe-au-Père 25 Oct–10 Nov (A. Brisson). Singles were also in Sept-Iles 4–8 Oct (J. P. Laporte), Tadoussac 11 Oct (CA), and Cap-aux-Meules, *Magdalen Is.*, 20 Oct (DGG, C. A. Gaudet). An imm. Lark Sparrow was photographed in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 16 Oct (A. Couture, P. Otis, ML, JPO); another visited Les Escoumins 20–23 Nov (CG, CA). N. Cardinals crossed the boreal forest and reached the Saguenay region in early Nov, producing at least four sightings.

An imm. and an ad. Yellow-headed

SA Following the early Nov storm that brought record numbers of Cave Swallows into the ne. U.S. and s. Ontario, Québec birders were on the lookout for this species, which had never reached the Region. Their expectations were rewarded with discovery of two in Melocheville, near Montréal, 6–7 Nov (PB, G. Zenaitis, LS, ph. A. Hogues). Despite freezing temperatures at night, one remained in the area until 11 Nov. Two more reached La Malbaie, a more n. location between Québec City and Tadoussac, also 6–7 Nov (M. Robert, C. Simard). Other possible Cave Swallows could not be positively identified because they were too far away or not well seen. Only the orange rump was seen on a swallow flying away from an observer in the Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 6 Nov (D. Campeau), while an unidentified swallow described as having a chestnut rump and a brown belly was reported in l'Anse-à-Beaufils, *Gaspésie*, 7 Nov (ML). Finally, a swallow routinely identified as a Cliff Swallow in Eastman in early Nov might has been a Cave Swallow (HS, *fide* S. Denault).

Examination of the photographs taken in Melocheville seemed to indicate that the subspecies involved was *pallida*. The orange rump, reddish-brown forehead, mainly gray flanks, and relatively large size (as appreciated in the field) all supported this conclusion. Based on available illustrations (e.g. Raffaele et al. 1998, *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies*), there was no evidence that these birds belong to the *fulva* group.

Blackbird visited Cap-aux-Meules and Lavernière, respectively, 6–23 Oct (m.ob.); an imm. stopped briefly in Haldimand, *Gaspésie*, 22 Oct (M.&E. Morency, G. Jobin). An imm. Orchard Oriole was identified by plumage and calls in Cap-Tourmente N.W.A. 9 Oct (AC). Two ad. and five juv. Com. Redpolls at a feeder in Jonquière 23 Aug may have indicated local breeding (D. Gervais et al.).

EXOTICS

A male Mandarin Duck appeared in Laval 20 Oct (D. Hughes) and two Chinese Geese were reported in Clarenceville 7 Oct (*fide* BH). A Chukar in La Baie early Jul–23 Aug was without doubt an escape from a local fancier (S. Tremblay, Mo. Tremblay, H. Simard). A Zebra Finch was found among a flock of House Sparrows at Hull 12 Sep (M. Tellier).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

new england

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Autumn 1999 was considerably wetter than average, largely attributable to a wet September, in turn owing much to the drenching received from Tropical Storm *Floyd* 16–17 Sep, although other frontal systems pitched in, notably on 10 Sep. August and November were actually much drier than average. Temperature was above average in September and November, but a tad cool in October. Killing frost was frequent from early Oct in the north, but snow was almost absent. Bird activity tended to reflect weather, with some good flights correlating well with frontal passages; e.g., on 12 and 18–19 Sep. The best seabird "wrecks," on 4 Oct and 3 Nov, were associated with southerly blows rather than nor'easters. *Floyd* attracted birders to several sites along its path, but its results were modest—it displaced a handful of larids and caused some shorebird fallout inland.

The avian event of the season in southern New England was the influx of Cave Swallows to our region in November. They appeared not long after the strong southerly blow of the third but were *found* in clear weather with northwest winds. Lake Champlain reasserted its biogeographic status as the easternmost Great Lake with a remarkable jaeger flight and an excellent array of the smaller gulls. The Neotropical passerine migration was often painfully lacking in numbers and diversity, something that has not been news for some time. Boreal irruptives were mixed, with few raptors save for the raptorial songbird Northern Shrike, an early Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings, particularly to the north, and diverse but not overly numerous winter finches mostly along the coast. Save for the swallows, rarities were those with a track record in the region, led by Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, and Black-throated Gray Warblers.

Abbreviations: Appledore *(Appledore I., Kittery, York, ME)*; Block I. *(Block I., Newport, RI)*; Dead Creek *(Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison, Addison, VT)*; Great Meadows *(Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA)*; Monomoy *(Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, Barnstable, MA)*; Plum I. *(Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA)*; Rockport *(Andrew's and Halibut Pts., Rockport, Essex, MA)*; S. Beach *(South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA)*.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

The usual handful of **Pacific Loon** reports were submitted, with a bird in partial-alternate plumage in flight at Rockport 4 Oct, the second consecutive year with such a sighting (†RH); Connecticut's second at Sherwood Island S.P., Westport, *Fairfield*, 19 Oct (F. Mantlik); and another in York, ME, 20 Nov (AA *fide* JD). The two Eared Grebes reported were returnees to Trustom Pond N.W.R., *Washington*, RI, 18 Sep–16 Nov (JStJ, D. Wilson, v.o.) and Gloucester, *Essex*, MA, 24 Sep+ (J. Soucy, v.o.).

Autumn 1999 was good for shelf-water pelagics, apparently due to good numbers of bait fish inshore, many of the best counts coming from shore-based seawatchers. This situation was especially true of Greater Shearwaters, with 11 counts in excess of 500, including a major flight during a sou'wester 3 Nov when a New Hampshire record 600 were counted from Ragged Neck, Rye, *Rockingham*, in 1.5 hours (A&BD) and *6,150* were counted in a full day at Rockport (RH). An impressive 12,600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were tallied at Stellwagen Bank 7 Aug (†RH). N. Gannets were also numerous from August onward, the best counts associated with the 3 Nov storm, including 8,600 at Rockport (RH). Two strayed inland to cen. Maine, with imms. at Bangor, *Penobscot*, on a surprisingly early 12 Aug (C.

Holbrook *fide* WT), and Holden, *Penobscot*, 10 Oct (LL). A **Brown Pelican** at Hingham, *Plymouth*, MA, 16 Aug was a good find (E. Perry, *fide* MR). Only one Great Cormorant appeared inland, but it was as far from regional tidewater as possible on L. Champlain at Burlington, *Chittenden*, VT, 28 Nov (†W. Scott, †TGM).

Least Bitterns were few, with only single reports from Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The dry summer shifted southern herons out of "normal" patterns at the traditional Plum I. roost and more n. venues were blessed with extraordinary numbers. Perhaps the Merrimack and Ipswich estuaries were rendered more saline by drought. Great Egrets established their best counts since 1948 in n. New England with up to 21 at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME, in Aug/Sep (LB, v.o.), 13 at Colchester, *Chittenden*, VT, 8 Sep (TGM, v.o.), and 46 at Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH, 20 Sep (SM). Excellent counts of Snowy Egrets in NH and ME included 252 at Seabrook (SM) 20 Sep and 351 at Appledore Sep 4 (DH). One turned up well inland on L. Champlain at Colchester 23 Sep (TGM). Yet another excellent count was 30 Little Blue Herons at Scarborough, ME, 28 Aug (G. Carson). Also notable were two inland at Turners Falls, *Franklin*, MA, 10–15 Aug (MF, v.o.) and at Enfield, *Grafton*, NH, 5–14 Sep (†PH, v.o.). High counts of Cattle Egrets included 62 visitors from New York's Four Brothers Is. in Shelburne, *Chittenden*, VT, Aug 21 (J. Arrowsmith), and 30+ at Thomaston, *Knox*, ME, of uncertain origin given no known local colony, Aug 19 (*fide* WT). One of only a few reported Yellow-crowned Night-Herons strayed far e. to Calais, *Washington*, ME, Aug 10 (M. Mills). The Glossy Ibis that bred at Four Brothers also favored Vermont for foraging as up to four were seen along L. Champlain from Swanton to Shelburne Aug 7–Sep 9 (m. ob.). Indeterminate *Plegadis* ibis included one inland at Concord, NH, Sep 8 (M. Amaral, M. Bartlett), and a very late one Nov 25 at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (*fide* J. Hunter). The only Black Vulture reported was far n. at Colchester, VT, Sep 3 (†RL).

WATERFOWL

A dozen Gr. White-fronted Geese matched 1997's noteworthy total; they included two at Dorset, *Bennington*, VT, 12–25 Oct (†B. Powers, v.o.); one killed by a hunter at Sebasticook L., *Penobscot*, ME, 29 Oct (*fide* D. Mairs); at least three in MA, and six in CT. Ross's Geese continue to appear among the tens of thousands of Snow Geese in the Champlain Valley, with up to two ad. at Dead Creek 6–15 Oct (m.ob.). As Ross's Geese increase so do birds of mixed ancestry with Snow Goose. This fall there were reports of two hybrids, a blue morph at Dead Creek 15 Oct (ph. DJH) and a white morph at Plum I. 9–27 Nov (D.&I. Jewell, m.ob.). Reports of Richardson's (Canada) Geese (*hutchinsii*) are increasing, as two were at Dead Creek 5–9 Oct (v.o.) and three were at Great Meadows 17 Oct (D. Sibley). Also unusual was a small dark Canada Goose, presumably *minima*, at Grand Isle, VT, 2 Oct (DJH). Three Brant apparently summered at Young I., *Grand Isle*, VT (ph. DJH, v.o.). The peak inland flight was early, with 276 on L. Champlain 1–2 Oct and in w. MA 235 were reported 12–24 Oct (*fide* SK). This autumn's Barnacle Goose was at S. Kingstown, *Washington*, RI, 19 Oct (M. Tucker). The only Tundra Swans reported were three at a traditional wintering area at Naples, *Cumberland*, ME, 29 Nov+ (P. McGowan). Feral Whooper Swans continued in *Essex*, MA (JB, v.o.) and an approachable individual was on Cobbosseecontee L., *Kennebec*, ME, in Aug (L. Poland, *fide* JD). Eurasian Wigeon numbered 13, with four on Great Bay, NH, (A&BD) and nine in e. MA. Canvasback and Redhead numbers remain low, although the latter appeared in VT and ME, where scarce. **Tufted Ducks** included Maine's third and fourth 13–20 Nov at Rockport, *Knox* (M. Andrews, v.o.), and 14 Nov at Bar Harbor, *Hancock* (WT). The *Worcester*, MA, drake returned for its fifth winter 11 Oct, almost matching its arrival date in 1998 (ML, m.ob.).

A stunning 100,000 Com. Eiders massed 1–2 Nov off Schoodic Pt., *Hancock*, ME (WT), rivaling counts from Monomoy in years past. Harlequin Ducks continued in excellent numbers in favored haunts, with 67 at Rockport 18 Nov (JB) and 35 at Sachuest Pt., *Newport*, RI, 26 Nov (CR). One was well west in Long I. Sound 28 Oct–17 Nov at Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT (PD). The best coastal scoter flight 4 Oct included a notable 1,950 Blacks at Rockport (RH). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes were in VT, NH, and MA, and 14 were in Maine 1 Nov+. The *7,000+* Com. Mergansers on Sabattus Pond, *Androscoggin*, ME, 27 Nov was three times the previous maximum (PV). Ruddy Ducks were both widespread and numerous. High counts in n. New England, where usually uncommon, were 43 in Newmarket, *Rockingham*, NH, 1 Nov (SM), 18 in Bridport, *Addison*, VT, 4 Nov (SW), and 500+ (previous high 44) in Stockton Springs, *Waldo*, ME, 7 Nov (LL). In s. New England counts ranged upwards to over 900 in e. MA.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Twenty-five migrating ad. Ospreys at Lighthouse Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 3 Aug (GH, MS) suggest that some raptor movement takes place much earlier than tradition dictates. Good Osprey counts at more expected dates were a New Hampshire record 150 at Odiorne Pt., Rye, 18 Sep (SM), and a w. Massachusetts season record 284 counted at Granville, *Hampden* (TS, JW). Cooper's Hawks set a season record at Granville with 94; nonetheless they were outnumbered by Sharp-shinned Hawks 11:1 (*fide* SK). The Broad-winged Hawk migration was unimpressive but had its usual discrete peak, with Vermont's high count 18 Sep and the Massachusetts wave crest a day later. The lone Swainson's Hawk was a light morph at Mt. Watatic, *Worcester*, 19 Oct (D. McCullough, *fide* MR). Proving the value of post-Sep hawkwatching were 969 Red-tailed Hawks tallied for the season at two w. MA hawk watches (Granville, and N. Adams, *Berkshire*; *fide* SK). A baker's-dozen Golden Eagles were reported from four states, including seven on w. MA hawkwatches 17 Oct–15 Nov (*fide* SK). Am. Kestrels appeared to temporarily interrupt their decline; encouraging reports included a staggering 328 seen during a tour of *Washington*, ME, blueberry barrens 11 Sep (NF), and a New England inland record 633 at Granville, MA, with a peak of 70 on 2 Oct (JW, TS). The Merlin's range expansion continues, with successful nesting on the urban Bates College campus, Lewiston, *Androscoggin*, ME (T. Hayward, v.o.). A New Hampshire record 84 were counted at Odiorne Pt. 18 Sep (SM). A Gyrfalcon showed up early and well to the s. at Old Lyme, *New London*, CT, 19 Oct (DP).

Spruce Grouse were well reported from known but seldom-checked venues in New Hampshire, with eight in *Coos* and *Grafton* (*fide* SM). A Yellow Rail was reported 1 Nov from Marshfield, *Plymouth*, MA (D. Furbish, *fide* MR). Noteworthy among over 30 Com. Moorhens were one far n. at Easton, *Aroostook*, ME, 7 Sep (MT) and a late one 28 Oct–14 Nov at Exeter, *Rockingham*, NH (D. Green, L. Ring, v.o.). At least five Sandhill Cranes graced the Region, with a long-staying imm. at Monroe, *Grafton*, NH, reported 18 Aug (*fide* SM). Although Internet postings indicated it arrived in spring, stayed much later, and strayed to Vermont, no other reports were supplied. Other cranes included at least one in ME and individuals in sw. VT and RI.

SHOREBIRDS

Inland drought conditions created large mudflats on shallow L. Champlain, produc-

ing a memorable shorebird migration. Record or near-record counts from Vermont included 14 Black-bellied Plovers, 70 Semipalmated Plovers, 5 Red Knots, and 780 Least Sandpipers (RL, DL, FP, DJH, v.o.). Am. Golden-Plovers were well reported, including a maximum of 62 in Bridport and Weybridge, *Addison*, VT, 20 Sep (RL). Evidence of good breeding success for the threatened Piping Plover were 85 and 200 reported 4 and 23 Aug, respectively, from S. Beach and S. Monomoy at Cape Cod's "elbow" (BN, WP). Whimbrels included one 5 Sep in Milton, *Chittenden*, VT (RL), one over a hawkwatch 7 Sep at Granville, MA (JW), and two at Christina Res., *Aroostook*, ME, 12 Sep (MT). Hudsonian Godwits also occurred inland, with six in nw. Vermont 16 Sep–31 Oct (†FP, TGM) and a juv. 17 Sep at Great Meadows (SP); an above-average four were found in CT (*fide* GH). Twenty-one Marbled Godwits included one way Down East on the Lubec Flats, *Washington*, ME, 13–31 Aug (D. Crockett, v.o.) and high counts of four at Jerusalem, *Washington*, RI 24 Aug (D. Kraus), and 7 at Monomoy 11 Sep (BN).

Besides a remarkable 15 inland Red Knots along L. Champlain, another landlubber was at Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA, 15 Aug (T. Gagnon). Down-East Maine shorebird hotspots produced some fine counts, including 7,500+ Semipalmated Sandpipers in Harrington, *Washington*, 15 Aug (NF) and 200 White-rumped Sandpipers on the Lubec Flats 8 Sep (NF). Again one of the season's shorebird highlights was a **Red-necked Stint** found in e. Massachusetts, a Bay State fifth and a regional sixth, this one at S. Beach 5–13 Sep (Gd'E, m.ob.). The L. Champlain mudflats helped generate the highest Baird's Sandpiper total in at least 20 years, with 30 of the 65 found in the Region, including 11 on 28 Aug (RL); numbers were near average elsewhere. Due to dry inland conditions Pectoral Sandpipers were common, producing maxima of 88 at Dead Creek 17 Sep (RL, DL, TGM), a New Hampshire record 60 in Exeter 7 Oct (D. Abbott, SM), and 115 at Great Meadows 2 Nov (SP). Among the Pectorals was a regional fifth and a state second **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at a drained pond in Waterbury, *New Haven*, CT, 11 Aug (MS). As usual the lone inland Purple Sandpiper sighting was from L. Champlain at Grand Isle 25 Oct (RL). Coastal Stilt Sandpipers were less frequent than usual but more than average inland, with 17 in VT, one in ME, and eight in MA. Only 25 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported, but with five in Vermont and five inland in Massachusetts. Two Ruffs were located, including one at Portsmouth, *Newport*, RI, 11–15 Aug (P. Buckley, JStJ, DE) and a juv. at Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA, 12 Sep (S.&D. Carlson). Wilson's Phalaropes included two in VT and three on the coast in ME and MA. A late Red-necked Phalarope was at Boston 20 Nov (RD). This autumn's inland Red Phalaropes, all juveniles, were at Great Meadows 25–30 Sep (R. Walton, v.o.), Piermont, *Grafton*, NH, 2 Oct (†L. Bunten), and Shelburne Bay, VT, 3 Oct (†TGM, R. Fleming).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Coastal jaeger maxima were 25 Parasitics 16 Sep at Race Pt., Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA (RH), and 61 Pomarines 3 Nov at Rockport (RH). Six skuas were reported from Maine, two identified as Great and one as S. Polar; an additional unspecified skua was at Rockport 6 Sep (RH). A juv. Laughing Gull was deposited at Wachusett Reservoir, *Worcester*, 17 Sep by Tropical Storm *Floyd* (ML, SP), but the origin of three at Dead Creek 6 Oct was not obvious (†RL). The region's lone Franklin's Gull sighting occurred on Long I. Sound 24 Oct–3 Nov at Cove I. Park, Stamford (ph., PD). The majority of the region's 60 Little Gulls was on L. Champlain; at least 50 were seen on New England's "west coast" 21 Aug–15 Nov, including daily maxima of 11 each 15 and 28 Sep (RL, FP, TGM et al.). The 31 Black-headed Gulls were the most autumn reports since the mid-1970s. These included one in Ferrisburg, *Addison*, VT, 4 Nov (†J. Peterson, SW), 10 in ME including the seasonal maximum of 6 in Eastport and Lubec 7 Oct (NF), 16 in e. MA, and four in coastal NH. Bonaparte's Gulls were also well reported, with good counts at several traditional staging sites, headed by 50,000 in the Eastport, ME, area 7 Oct (NF). Nine Sabine's Gulls included seven in Bay State waters 17 Aug–17 Sep, with a maximum of three at Stellwagen Bank 14 Sep (BN), a juv. on L. Champlain at Milton 19 Sep (†A. Strong), and an exceptionally late one at Rockport 30 Nov (†G. LeBaron). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake strayed inland 8 Sep to L. Morey, Fairlee, *Orange*, VT (†M. Scott).

A significant tern and skimmer fallout was associated with Tropical Storm *Floyd* (Table 1). Highlights were brief visits by a few Sooty and Bridled Terns, primarily on Cape Cod and the Islands. Forty Caspian Terns were reported beyond the 17 correlated with *Floyd* in mid-Sep, including at least three frequenting ne. L. Champlain 3 Aug–4 Sep (m.ob.) and eight at Seabrook, NH, 4 Sep (A&BD). Few Royal Terns were not associated with *Floyd*, but eight Sandwich Terns were encountered on Martha's Vineyard 8 Sep (M. Pelikan, T. Raymond). Forster's Terns were numerous in October, but it is unclear whether they arrived with the storm and stayed, or arrived later. Good counts included a Maine record 11 at Scarborough 6 Oct (PV, m.ob.) and 53 at Newburyport, *Essex*, MA, 3 Oct (RH). Alcids were scarce with the exception of Razorbill, now the most common inshore auk, and Black Guillemot. The best Razorbill count was 960 at Provincetown 28 Nov (BN); non-breeding Black Guillemots peaked at 42 at Marshfield, MA, the same day (Gd'E). Vermont's fourth **Black Guillemot** was spotted in Charlotte 30 Nov (†TGM). Atlantic Puffin reports are more frequent these days, including six for the season at Rockport, with an early three in Aug (RH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLICKERS

There was a fairly strong coastal reverse migration of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, with a

SA Although debate may rage over some identifications, there is one indisputable fact about lake watching on L. Champlain at Charlotte, *Chittenden*, in Oct and Nov 1999. More jaegers were reported from this place than had been seen in all previous ornithological record for Vermont. At least 23 jaegers were counted from the shores of this township 18 Oct–25 Nov (†TGM, †DJH, v.o.). The mix of species is not entirely clear because identifications were often based on general morphology and observer impressions, with not quite enough plumage detail. It seems apparent that **Pomarine Jaegers** outnumbered **Parasitics** in Nov, but there is no specimen evidence for Pomarine Jaeger in Vermont and no incontrovertible proof for Parasitic Jaeger either. The only jaeger with specimens or a definitive photo is, remarkably enough, the Long-tailed, for which there are two specimens and one photograph, all from late Aug to mid-Sep. A bird that strongly suggested a juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen briefly at Dead Creek during Tropical Storm *Floyd* 17 Sep (†TGM).

record seven banded at Appledore in Sep (DH), 10 in e. MA 1 Oct (v.o.), and one far e. at Cutler, *Washington*, ME, 12 Oct (NF). Snowy Owls numbered only eight, the first pushing all the way to Stamford, CT, 26 Oct (PD); up to three were at Logan Airport, Boston, by season's end (NS). Many N. Saw-whet Owls seemed to be on the move, with 356 banded at Freeport, *Cumberland*, ME, mid-Sep to mid-Nov (twice last year's number; J. Walker) and 35 banded 8 Nov on Block I. (SC). The peak Com. Nighthawk flight occurred 23–24 Aug, with 2,000 in Worcester, MA, on the former (ML) and 2,050 in Southwick, *Hampden*, MA, on the latter (SK). Chimney Swifts were observed in impressive numbers and lingered late, with a maximum 2,000 migrating (not pre-roost) 29 Aug at Great Meadows (SP), 60 still present in e. MA 17–18 Oct, and one still coursing over Nahant, *Essex*, MA, 8 Nov (RD). Only two Rufous Hummingbirds were found, an ad. male at Scarborough, ME, 5–7 Aug (J. Walker, KG) and the ad. female returned for her third consecutive autumn at Agawam, *Hampden*, MA, 24 Aug (L. Fieldstad). More Red-bellied Woodpeckers strayed n. than in 1999, with five in Vermont, three in New Hampshire, and ten in Maine, one e. to *Washington*. Migrating N. Flickers crested on Block I. with a substantial 450 from 1–3 Oct (RF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Among flycatchers there was little of note save for a cooperative Ash-throated in Westport, *Bristol*, MA, 5–7 Nov (D. Hidreth, v.o.), a late Great Crested photographed at Little Compton, *Newport*, RI, 30–31 Oct (G. Dennis), and a modest 10 W. Kingbirds, one in CT, approx. five in ME, and four in the Bay State, one inland at Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, 3 Oct (ML). It was a banner year for N. Shrikes. Over 120 were reported across the Region, 30 reaching Connecticut and "several" in Rhode Island, including a maximum of three on Block I. 8 Nov (CR et al.). Northerly White-eyed Vireos were at Vermont's Button Bay S.P., *Addison*, 25 Sep (†E. Buford, †TGM) and Monhegan I., ME, in late Sep (B. Boynton). Other vireos lingered late, with a Yellow-throated in Sandwich, *Carroll*, NH, 6 Oct (TV), a Blue-headed in Cumberland, *Cumberland*, ME, 11 Nov (LB), a Connecticut record-late Warbling at Hammonasset Beach S.P., *New Haven*, 6 Nov (DP), and a Philadelphia on Block I. 21–23 Oct (CR).

Rarely encountered migrant Purple Martins were on Nantucket 19 Sep (E. Andrews) and inland at Great Meadows 25 Sep (SP). Tree Swallows took advantage of mild Nov weather, with 250 counted at Provincetown, MA, 15 Nov (P. Trull). Good numbers of N. Rough-winged Swallows included 150 in Grand Isle, VT, 26 Aug (DJH), 70 still present at Great Meadows 9 Oct, and record late singles there 7 Nov (SP) and at Ipswich, *Essex*, 9 Nov (RH) by observers seeking exotic fare (read on!). In contrast, most Barn Swallows seem to have departed in Aug, with a huge count of 4,500 in Newburyport 13 Aug (†RH).

SA The event of the season, representing a first for the Region, was an influx of **Cave Swallows** along the Long Island Sound shore. On 7 Nov approximately 10 were observed at Hammonasset (DP et al.), six were photographed at Lighthouse Pt. (F. Mantlick et al.), and three were at Napatree Pt., *Washington*, RI (SSM). The next day two turned up at Stamford, CT (PD, F. Gallo) and three reached inland to Mansfield Hollow, *Tolland* (MS). Singles continued to 16 Nov in Connecticut, but none reached the Bay State.

Boreal Chickadees departed boreal forests in small numbers, with one banded at Manomet, *Plymouth*, MA, 29 Oct, and three in coastal CT early Nov. Moving in the opposite direction, a couple of Tufted Titmice almost made it to New Brunswick, with reports from Topsfield, *Washington*, and Bancroft, *Aroostook*, ME. Red-breasted Nuthatches moved out early, with 80 of 100 banded for the season on Appledore caught in Aug (DH), peak counts of over 20 on the Massachusetts Is. in mid-Sep and 115 on Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). Carolina Wrens continue to increase in s. New England strongholds, evidenced by 117 on Block I. (CR et al.); they are also reappearing in the North Country. Winter Wren maxima of seven each came from Salisbury, *Addison*, VT, 20 Sep (SW) and Block I. 8 Nov (CR et al.). A Sedge Wren was in Stratford, CT, 28 Sep (P. Comins).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

A researcher found 15 Bicknell's Thrushes still calling and singing on Mt. Mansfield, VT, 14 Sep (K. McFarland). A Wood Thrush at winter's door was studied at length 30 Nov in Charlotte, VT (TGM). A female Varied Thrush was in Hamden, *New Haven*, CT, 18–20 Nov (A. Brand). Bohemian Waxwings arrived 19 Oct in n. ME and 28 Oct in VT. The largest tally was 146 in Ferrisburg, VT, 14 Nov (FP); several made it to Massachusetts in Nov, including a flock of 10 well out Cape Cod in the Truro/ Wellfleet area (v.o.). Cedar Waxwings gathered in force at Gay Head, *Dukes*, MA, 12 Sep, when 2,000 were counted (VL).

Observers noted a less-than-memorable warbler flight in 1999. As we have come to expect in recent years, budworm specialists (Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers) were reported in dismal (mostly single-digit) numbers from each state. Nonetheless, some flight days were observed 12, 19, 26, and 27 Sep on Appledore (DH), and 12, 18, 27 Sep and 1 Oct at Bluff Pt., Groton, *New London*, CT. (D. Sosensky). A Golden-winged Warbler was banded at Appledore and five others were sighted in Massachusetts. A female Lawrence's Warbler showed up in Stoughton, *Norfolk*, MA, 21 Sep (R. Titus). New England reports of Orange-crowned Warblers have come to outnumber all other species totals for

Table 1. Tropical Storm *Floyd* Tern Fallout in New England 17–20 September 1999

Species	Number	Location	Observer(s)
Caspian Tern	1	Cape Elizabeth, ME	J. Suchecki
	1	Rye, NH	SM
	15	e. Massachusetts	v.o.
Royal Tern	2	Cape Cod	v.o.
	10	Martha's Vineyard	L. McDowell
Sandwich Tern	1	Mt. Desert Rock, ME	LB; 9th for ME
	10	Martha's Vineyard	L. McDowell
	1	Little Compton, RI	RE
Common Tern	8	Mascoma L., *Grafton*, NH	PH
	4	Wachusett Res, MA	ML
Forster's Tern	1	Wachusett Res, MA	ML
Least Tern	8	Cape Cod	BN, W. Ellison
Bridled Tern	3	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	L. McDowell, WP
Sooty Tern	6	Cape Cod	WP, BN
	1	Sakonnet Point, RI	R. Emerson
Black Tern	2	Gill, *Franklin*, MA	MF
	1	Pt. Judith, RI	JStJ
Black Skimmer	5	Martha's Vineyard, Cape Cod	v.o.

This apparent hybrid White-throated Sparrow Dark-eyed Junco was at Litchfield, Connecticut, 15 Nov 1999. The hybrid combination has been previously documented but is rarely encountered. Photograph/Mark Szantyr

Vermivora, save for Nashville. This year there were 43, including a maximum of three on Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). Eighteen warbler species were noted in Nov, including a Yellow 11 Nov in Belmont, *Middlesex*, MA (†MR), a Magnolia 20 Nov in Saco, *York*, ME (AA), an Am. Redstart 7 Nov in Lincoln, *Providence*, RI (E. Caporelli), an Ovenbird from mid-Nov to at least 11 Dec in Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME (M. J. Northrup, *fide* KG), and a N. Waterthrush 28 Nov at Arlington, *Middlesex*, MA (MR). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** on Star I., *Rockingham*, 21–22 Sep was the first photographically documented in New Hampshire (†R. Suomala et al.). Two others turned up in Connecticut, at Hammonasset 6 Nov (L. Clancy, J. Mehmel) and Southbury, *New Haven*, 7 Nov (KF). Southern reverse-migrant warblers included two Yellow-throateds in MA, a Cerulean in ME (E. Obercian), four Prothonotaries in coastal MA, a late Worm-eating banded at Block I. 2 Nov (SC), two Kentuckies in MA, and six Hoodeds n. to Appledore. Good numbers of Palm Warblers were reported, with a high count of 66 from Block I. 1–3 Oct (RF et al.). A Louisiana Waterthrush banded on Appledore 28 Aug (DH) provided a second island record, followed by the third there 12 Sep (D. Trested, *fide* DH). The lately annual **MacGillivray's Warbler** showed up 28 Nov+ at Boston (R. Stymeist, m.ob.). Banders at Appledore handled a record 25 Yellow-breasted Chats, including three 20 Sep (DH), about 40% of the 60 reported for the Region.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only W. Tanager of the season was at New Fairfield, *Fairfield*, CT, 27 Oct (D. Breeger). A total of 38 Clay-colored Sparrows was reported across the Region. A modest eight Lark Sparrows were distributed from ME (three) and NH (one) to MA and CT (two each). A female Lark Bunting attracted attention in N. Weymouth, *Norfolk*, MA, 5–6 and 24 Sep (K. Vespaziani, v.o.). A Henslow's Sparrow was at Newbury, *Essex*, MA, 26 Oct (RH) and three Le Conte's were in e. Massachusetts mid-Oct to mid-Nov. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows appearing inland during the expected late Sep to Oct time frame included birds at Bolton Flats, Great Meadows, Wayland, Newton, and Northampton, MA. Northward-straying Seaside Sparrows were at Appledore 30 Aug (DH) and Scarborough, ME, 30 Sep (PV). Fox and White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco were reported in good numbers. The Fox Sparrow high count was 25 at Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA, 12 Nov (*fide* SK), White-throateds numbered 450 at Worcester, MA, 14 Oct (ML), 500 juncoes were tallied at Sandwich, NH, 14 Oct (TV), and another 750 juncoes were in Hadley, MA, 29 Oct (P. Champlin). A hybrid White-throated Sparrow × Dark-eyed Junco was photographed in Litchfield, CT, 14–17 Nov (B&KF). Two Oregon Juncoes were found in Amherst and Northampton, MA. Snow Buntings arrived in mid-Oct and reached maxima of 510 at Block I. 8 Nov (CR) and 3,000 at Logan Airport 12 Nov (NS). Twelve Blue Grosbeaks were well down from last autumn's 75; ME and CT garnered two each, with the balance in MA. The Region's annual Painted Bunting was a male in Watertown, *Middlesex*, MA, 25 Aug (D. Ricci). The season total of 47 Dickcissels was more typical than the 100+ in 1998. An impressive 800 Bobolinks congregated at Gay Head, MA, 12 Sep (VL). Less common icterids were Yellow-headed Blackbirds in NH (one), MA (five), and CT (two), a female Brewer's Blackbird in Orange, *Franklin*, MA, 29 Oct (†J. Johnstone *fide* MR) and three males in Columbia, *Tolland*, CT, 10 Nov (†MS), a female Boat-tailed Grackle at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 6 Aug (PD), and an imm. male Bullock's Oriole at a feeder in Stafford, *Tolland*, CT, 5 Nov+ (ph. L. Mack).

Finch numbers were decent if not impressive this season. Small numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were scattered across n. New England, while flocks of other species became concentrated along the coast in Oct/Nov. Worcester, MA, hawkwatchers counted 213 Purple Finches departing the North Country 10 Oct (†ML). Red Crossbills peaked at 47 on Nantucket 1 Nov (E. Ray), 40 at Block I. 8 Nov (CR), and 41 at Burlingame S.P., *Washington*, RI, 26 Nov (SSM). Widely separated White-winged Crossbill high counts were 15 at Yarmouth, *Barnstable*, MA, 3 Nov (K. Hamilton) and 60 at Bangor, ME, 20 Nov (M. Lucey). Com. Redpolls became widespread in early Nov and may have had a more n. origin than most years, suggested by the early appearance of four Hoary Redpolls in MA 11–12 Nov. The coastal concentration of the flight was noticeable in Pine Siskins, with counts of 150 at Napatree Pt., RI, and 137 at Block I., and in Am. Goldfinches, with 600 and 800 at the same two locations.

CORRIGENDA

Old business: the Sandhill Crane from Connecticut, 19 Nov 1998, was at Sandy Hook, *Fairfield*, not Sandy Pt., *New Haven*. Spring Reports: Millers Falls is in the township of Montague, *Franklin*, MA, so count only two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on 31 May 1999. The Tufted Duck at Bantam L., *Litchfield*, CT, was seen 26 Apr (not 26 May) 1999.

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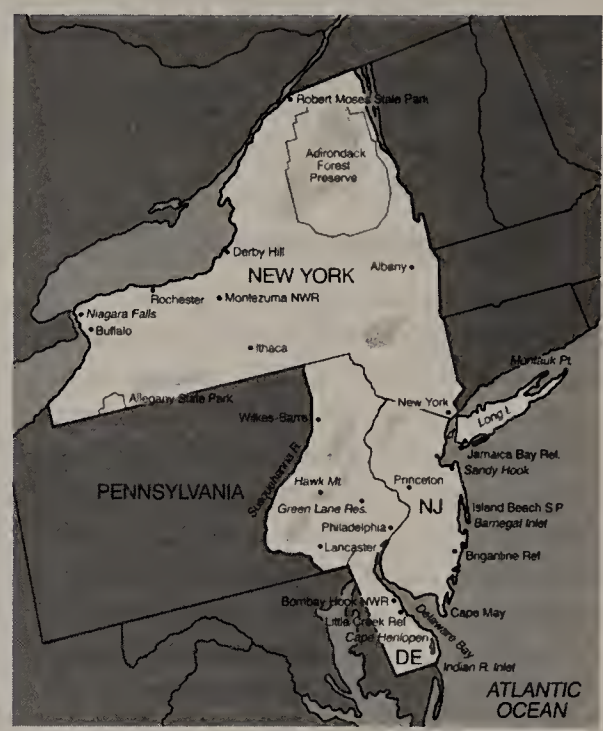
hudson–delaware

A rare stray from the Southeast was this immature Wood Stork at Old Tappon during July and August 1999, providing the first (there are eight in total) New Jersey records away from venerable Cape May. The photo was taken 1 Aug. Photograph/Al Pochek



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Drought punctuated by two hurricanes marked this season. Hurricane *Dennis* stalled well offshore, dwindling to a Tropical Storm before passing ne. 6–7 Sep. It beached tubenoses (including Pennsylvania's first documented Greater Shearwater) and offshore migrants (jaegers, Am. Golden-plovers, Hudsonian Godwits, phalaropes, Black Terns). Hurricane *Floyd* also weakened as it crossed L.I. during the night of 16–17 Sep. Its principal impact was extensive flood damage in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and the Adirondacks. By dawn the cold front that had helped weaken it was already arriving on howling nw. winds, leaving little pelagic fallout (see Sooty, Bridled, Sandwich Terns). These storms bottled up migrants that the following cold fronts then released. September 11th brought the first Broad-winged Hawk flight and abundant passerines (27 species of warblers at Cape May). On the heels of *Floyd* 18–19 Sep came the first of several migration waves that made this fall seem almost like the old days (see raptors, Chimney Swift). Sandy Hook held 25 warbler species 18 Sep. *Floyd* also broke the Great Drought of 1999, although rainfall remained light through Nov. The drought affected habitat available for migrating waders and the food supply for bird populations in general. While observers agreed on cone failure in the north, contradictory information arrived about the drought's impact on fruit and seeds.

The migration was spectacular at moments along shorelines, more ordinary elsewhere. Observers on the L. Ontario floodplain were "awed by the numbers and variety of passerines" through Sep (WS). On 6–7 Nov an immense cold front unleashed a tide of migrants on Long Island and Cape May. Diurnal migrants dominated this event. On Long Island's biggest day, 7 Nov, upwards of a million robins, tens of thousands of goldfinches and blackbirds and hundreds of Pine Siskins and crossbills moved southwest (AW). In *Cumberland*, NJ, on the morning of 6 Nov, millions of robins and thousands of blackbirds, waxwings, and bluebirds followed Delaware Bay southeast (R. Barber). They reached Cape May that evening, estimated at a million-and-quarter Am. Robins, 75,000 Am. Goldfinches, 2,000 Rusty Blackbirds, 1,500 E. Bluebirds, and "thousands" of sparrows (PL). That night Katie Duffy's team banded a single-night record 145 owls (mostly N. Saw-whets) at Cape May.

In the mild Nov many late departure records were exceeded: e.g., E. Wood-Pewee 22 Nov at Rochester (DT), Red-eyed Vireo 13 Nov at Rochester (DS, G. Chapin), Blackpoll Warbler banded 20 Oct at Kaiser-Manitou (R. McKinney), Orchard Oriole 14 Oct at Union Beach, *Monmouth*, NJ (T. Boyle). N. Goshawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Snowy Owls, winter finches, bark-gleaners and N. Shrikes staged limited invasions. Notable rarities included Western Grebe, multiple White-faced Storm-Petrels, Wood Stork, Red-necked Stint, Say's Phoebe, Cave Swallows, and Townsend's Solitaire. As for regular species, significant long-running data come from the Hamlin Beach lakewatch on L. Ontario (BE) and the seawatch at Avalon, NJ (CW), a dozen hawkwatches, and several banding stations. We regret not hearing from some others.

Abbreviations: Avalon *(seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ)*; Bombay Hook *(Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE)*; Brig *(Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ)*; Chazy riverlands *(L. Champlain shore around Chazy*

River mouths, Clinton, NY); Conejohela Flats *(Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA)*; Derby Hill *(hawkwatch at se. corner L. Ontario, Mexico, Oswego, NY)*; Hamlin Beach *(state park on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY)*; Jamaica Bay *(Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City)*; Johnson sod farm *(Salem/Cumberland, NJ)*; Kaiser-Manitou *(banding station w. of Rochester, NY)*; L.I. *(Long Island, NY)*; Montezuma *(Montezuma N.W.R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY)*; NJBRC *(New Jersey Bird Records Com.)*; NYSARC *(New York State Avian Records Com.)*; PORC *(Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee)*.

LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

Red-throated Loons passed Hamlin Beach lakewatch abundantly again, peaking at 2,206 on 18 Nov (BE, DT). Mysteriously, most were westbound. A Pac. Loon at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA 8–9 Nov (ph ABr, AM et al.) provided the fourth state record pending PORC approval; a well-seen flyby at Avalon 20 Nov (CW, K. Eckert, B. Russell) has been referred to the NJRBC. Horned Grebes set a daily record of 347 passing Hamlin Beach lakewatch 4 Nov (BE, DT), but off Atlantic beaches they were arriving only at season's end. The region's only Eared Grebe visited Glen Morgan L., *Berks*, PA, 13–17 Nov (K. Lebo). Much rarer was the W. Grebe described at Youngstown, *Niagara*, NY, 27 Nov (†D. Ford); the state has fewer than 20 reports of *Aechmophorus*.

A N. Fulmar, rarely seen from shore nowadays, was off Montauk Pt., L.I., 27 Nov (HMcG, ABa, B. Kane, P. St. John). After *Dennis* passed far offshore, a Greater Shearwater was retrieved in a parking lot in Richmond Twp., *Berks*, PA, 10 Sep (S. Montagner) and taken to a rehab center where it died (S. Weidensaul, *Reading Public Museum). In addition to common tubenoses off Cape May were two Manx Shearwaters 6 Sep and an Audubon's Shearwater 7 Sep. Another Audubon's washed up there and two were less surprising at Hudson Canyon 28 Aug (AG, TWB, SF, MB et al.). After *Floyd*, a Sooty Shearwater and a Manx/Audubon's-type shearwater was in the lower Delaware R. at Artificial I., *Salem*, NJ (WD).

White-faced Storm-Petrels appeared in unprecedented numbers. One was photographed (ABr) and videtaped (SF) 28 Aug near Hudson Canyon (m.ob.). After *Dennis*, on 9 Sep, one bird amazed a bird-conscious fishing captain as it worked the oil slick around his boat 20 mi s. of Montauk Pt. for

One of an amazing five that appeared in the Region during late August/early September 1999 was this White-faced Storm-Petrel at Hudson Canyon (off New Jersey) 28 Aug. Photograph/Alan Brady

an hour (ph. J. Passie, *fide* J. Ash). Off Delaware, another skipper reported two 11 Sep, 40 to 45 miles e. of Fenwick I., and one 13 Sep a little farther n. along the 30-fathom line (P. Floyd, K. Smith, *fide* AH). During a lengthy quest for tuna 19 Sep, Brady reported Band-rumped Storm-Petrels at each location where fish and whales were present. From s. of Hudson Canyon to below Spenser Canyon (39°30' N), then n. to Lendenkohl and to Carteret and Toms Canyons, he encountered stretches of *Sargassum*, water temperatures to 75°F, and ±20 Band-rumpeds, exceeding any prior Regional report.

FRIGATEBIRDS THROUGH VULTURES

A frigatebird, presumed Magnificent, flew out to sea over Tobay Pond, L.I., 26 Sep (A.&K. Ott). Great Egrets gather in ever greater late-summer concentrations upcountry; e.g., 68 on the Susquehanna R. 24 Aug at the W. Fairview Boat Launch opposite Harrisburg. The Bombay Hook Little Egret was last reported 14 Aug, as it lost its distinctive plume (P. Saenger, KK). Among many wandering herons, single Tricolored Herons were noteworthy at the Conejohela Flats 8 Aug, at Montezuma 5 Jul–8 Aug (K. Rosenberg et al.) and late 11 Sep at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY (DS). An ad. White Ibis at Whitesbogs 1 Aug (LL) was only the second for *Burlington*, NJ.

Glossy Ibises disperse n. from their new northern outpost on Four Brothers Is. in L. Champlain, judging from observations in Vermont and at Rouse's Pt. at the n. end of L. Champlain 6 Oct (JMCP). The summer visitor to *Chester*, PA, continued into Aug (P. Hurlock et al.). Others far afield included two at Montezuma 31 Aug–11 Sep (G. Kloppel et al.) and one late at Biddlecum Pond, Schroeppel Twp., *Oswego*, NY, 16–18 Oct (R. Knight et al.). An imm. **Wood Stork** at Old Tappan, *Bergen*, Jul–Aug (ph. A. Pochek) was New Jersey's eighth and the first outside *Cape May*. Ever-expanding Black Vultures established a new record of 80 passing Hawk Mt., 56 of them 31 Oct, while a kettle of 16 on 25 Oct at Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY, continued recent fall numbers. An explorer reached N. Chili, *Monroe*, NY, 22 Sep (†DT); they visit the L. Ontario plain nearly annually, mostly in spring.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Once again Gr. White-fronted Geese were widespread, with about six scattered across upstate New York and three on L.I. The rare blue-morph Ross's Goose was identified at Bombay Hook 14 Nov (FR). *B. c. hutchinsii* Canada Geese built to an unprecedented 32 at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, 13 Nov (M. Morgante). The only Tufted Duck was a female at Pt. Pleasant, *Ocean*, NJ, 20 Nov+ (D. Harrison, E. Obercian, m.ob.). South of accustomed L.I. sites (Montauk, Jones Inlet), a notable 18–20 Harlequin Ducks gathered at Barnegat, *Ocean*, NJ and a male reached Indian R. Inlet, DE, at the end of Nov (MG, APE). Avalon's total of 532,667 scoters (roughly 40% Surf, 60% Black, few White-winged) was the highest in the seawatch's seven years.

We thank the following hawkwatches for data: Mount Peter, *Orange*, NY (Judith Cinquina); Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY (Vince Plogar); Fire Is., L.I. (Drew Panko); Central Park, NYC (Bob DeCandido); Chimney Rock, *Somerset*, NJ (Chris Aquila); Picatinny Arsenal, *Morris*, NJ (Susan Simovich); Hawk Mt., Berks, PA (Craig Fosdick); Militia Hill, Fort Washington, PA (Marylee Klauder); Cape May, NJ (Dave Hedeen, Vince Elia); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). Ospreys, after several flat years, broke records at Picatinny (296) and Chimney Rock (945). A Swallow-tailed Kite was reported near Quarryville, *Lancaster*, PA 26 Aug (C. Alexander). Bald Eagles broke records at many watches. Even venerable Hawk Mt., predating the DDT era, had its third-highest total ever (167), 30 of them 17 Sep following Hurricane *Floyd*. The same period saw six over Central Park 18 Sep and six over Mt. Peter 19 Sep. Cooper's Hawks continue to increase their share among *Accipiter* hawks: 564 set a new record at Chimney Rock and 938 at Hawk Mt. (compared to only 4,416

Sharp-shins) was second only to last year. In an above-average N. Goshawk year, seven passed Derby Hill northbound 16 Oct (in a spring-like sw. wind that favors the site), a one-day total exceeded only by Cape May's ten in the great flight of 7 Nov.

Broad-winged Hawks began to move with the 11 Sep cold front, but the bulk followed Hurricane *Floyd* 18–19 Sep (record numbers rounded the w. end of L. Erie then too). The date of 19 Sep was busiest across a broad front: 9,000 over Hook Mt., 5,042 at Picatinny, 7,000 over Pipersville, *Bucks*, PA, and 6,652 at Beekman Orchard, *Pike*, PA, in the Poconos. Swainson's Hawks were well represented again, with one reported early 11 Aug at Mt. Wilson, *Lebanon*, PA (R. Miller), three passing Cape May (including one with the major flight of 19 Sep), and one over Second Mtn., near Ft. Indiantown Gap, *Lebanon*, PA, with the same rush 18 Sep (D. Schwenk). The Golden Eagles so widespread this season must come from farther west. Outstanding reports included Chimney Rock's record 18, and 31 passing Hawk Mountain in the second week of Nov alone. Am. Kestrels, following years of decline, ticked upward both coastally and inland. They even established a one-day record of 5,038 at Cape May on the front of 30 Sep. A Merlin family in early Aug in n. *Herkimer*, NY (T. Salo) extended the breeding range s. again. Merlins now compose about half the small falcons at Fire I., compared to 40% fifteen years ago. A quarter-century ago, in fall 1977, Cape May's total Peregrine count was 60. This fall it was 833, with 140 on 3 Oct. Because they cross water freely, a "tremendous flight" the same day brought 45 in four hours to Cape Henlopen, on the opposite shore of Delaware Bay. Farther north, Fire I.'s 253 set a record, with a record one-day count of 61 on 11 Oct.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Yellow Rail report from Hook Pond 24 Aug (†B. Kane) has been submitted to NYSARC. Three different Virginia Rails stranded on skyscraper window sills or in pocket parks in Manhattan in Oct illustrated the perils of cities for migrants. A Purple Gallinule running down a street in L.I. City 12 Oct was taken to rehabilitation. Sandhill Cranes must now be considered regular fall migrants. This season's five were even slightly low: one on the Susquehanna s. of Duncannon, *Perry*, PA, 11 Oct, two over Hawk Mt. 14 Oct (†AK), and two over Cape May 28 Nov (LZ).

Shorebirding was shaped by drought, for better or worse. Normally teeming impoundments at Bombay Hook were totally dry by Aug, leaving only tidal mudflats. By contrast, low inland waters made possible great variety (28 species at Conejohela Flats) and local rarities. Drought disfavored grasspipers. Most Am. Golden-Plover assemblages coincided with *Dennis*, starting with a rare one 4 Sep at Chazy riverlands on L. Champlain, ten at Delta L., *Oneida*, NY, 5 Sep, and 94 on Johnson sod farm 6 Sep (C&PS, EM). Eight the following day at Conejohela Flats constituted an excellent inland congregation. The same period brought the only double-digit gathering of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, up to 18 at Johnson sod farm 6–7 Sep (EM, CS, LZ). Ones and twos appeared in a dozen other places, plus three at Conejohela Flats 24 Aug (BS). Upland Sandpiper numbers were abysmal, nowhere reaching double digits.

A Wilson's Plover, an erstwhile New Jersey breeder with only six accepted occurrences since 1963 (all in spring), was remarkable at Brig. 4 Sep (F. Tetlow). Post-breeding Am. Avocets at Bombay Hook swelled again to 1,056 on 10 Oct (BP), dethroning the previous maximum of 610. Northward stragglers reached only L.I. (RJK et al.). For once Marbled Godwits outnumbered Hudsonians. Singles were excellent inland at Conejohela Flats 8 Aug (TG) and Pt. Peninsula, *Jefferson*, NY, 30–31 Aug (N. Leone), typically on the L. Ontario shore. Coastally, most major shorebird sites had a few, the most being 12 at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, NJ (A. Tongas, P. Misseldine). For the second fall in a row they accumulated at Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, NJ, reaching seven by 13 Nov (PS et al.). Hudsonian Godwits came mainly in ones, the only sizable coastal group being eight at the S. Cape May Meadows during *Dennis* 6–7 Sep. Notable inland were singles at Greece, *Monroe*, NY, 23 Sep (DT, R. O'Hara), Delta L. 11–15 Sep (WP), and Conejohela Flats 21 Sep (BS). Red Knots ranged from "low" (RGS) to "disastrously low" (RJK), though one was remarkable inland at Conejohela Flats 4 Sep (DH).

A W. Sandpiper was accidental at Chazy riverlands 2–4 Sep (CM, BK); one at L. LaGrange, near Perry, 4–5 Sep (DT, MD) was the first since 1959 in *Wyoming*, NY. The prize shorebird was a **Red-necked Stint** in bright plumage at Brig. 15–17 Aug (FL, M. Fritz), New Jersey's first. Least Sandpipers accumulated to a historic high of 276 at drought-stricken L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA, 22 Jul (KK) and 225 at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA, 12 Aug (AM). Low water made possible inland records of Baird's Sandpipers, where almost unknown; *Livingston*, NY recorded its third–fifth records and one was accidental at King's Bay on L. Champlain (CM, BK). The best count was a record eight during *Dennis* at Johnson sod farm (WD). Curlew Sandpipers were limited to Delaware: Woodland Beach W.M.A. 21 Aug (FR) and Bombay Hook 27 Aug (MG, BGP). Reversing recent patterns, there were three Ruffs around NY City and one at Brig. 23 Aug, but none in dry Delaware. Eight Red-necked Phalaropes landed just off Robert Moses S.P., L.I., 6 Sep, during passage of *Dennis* offshore. Ten Red Phalaropes at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY, likely affected by *Floyd*, were early 17 Sep (†DT).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Franklin's Gull numbers, though above average, were far below last year's inundation: three around Rochester 11 Sep and 23–24 Oct (J.&S. Skelly, †DT), one on the Hudson 17 Oct at Piermont Pier, *Rockland*, NY (C. Weiss et al.), two–three on L.I., including one 18–19 Sep after *Floyd* (HMcG), and a flyby at Avalon 7 Nov (CW, PL). California Gulls, now annual, were found only around Niagara. A Sabine's Gull passed Derby Hill on a cold front 30 Sep (G. Smith) and another was at Cape May 21 Oct (CS). The annual Lesser Black-backed Gull agglomeration in *Bucks*, PA, peaked at 152 at Churchville Res. 21 Nov (A. Binns), likely the most ever observed at one spot in North America. Other impressive inland counts

SA Jaeger passage on L. Ontario was substantial again, exceeding 170 at Hamlin Beach and 24 at Derby Hill (19 and 7 Pomarines, respectively). The big news was two ad. Long-tailed Jaegers at Hamlin Beach 18 Aug (†DT, †WS) and 29 Aug (†DT, †WS, C. Cass), the second and third documented records at Rochester and first for Aug. Jaeger passage southwards along L. Champlain was long supposed but remained unverified for lack of access to strategic narrows between Split Rock Pt, *Essex*, NY, and Thompson's Pt. VT. A lakewatch on the Vermont side confirmed the hypothesis, identifying in NY waters seven jaeger sp., four Pomarines in Nov (first *Essex* records), and five Parasitics 24 Oct–25 Nov (T. Murrin, D. Hoag, T. Hall, A. Strong, F. Pratt, P. Riley). Avalon's total 192 Parasitic Jaegers (plus four Pomarines) was high, too.

Hundreds of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, including a peak count of 152 (!) at Churchville Reservoir 21 Nov, appeared in Bucks, Pennsylvania, during November 1999, including the three adults pictured here at Richboro. Photograph/Adrian Binns

Several Sandwich Terns, like this one at Jones Beach 17 Sep 1999, were deposited on Long Island, New York, by Tropical Storm Floyd. Photograph/Robert Machover

included 20 at Peace Valley, *Bucks*, PA, 26 Nov (AM).

Around a dozen Sandwich Terns were scattered along the s. shore of L.I. after *Floyd*. The usual handful hung around Cape May and Cape Henlopen all fall. In addition to a dozen Bridled Terns around Cape May during *Floyd*, one was reported at Shinnecock Inlet. L.I., 21 Aug (ABa), unrelated to storms. Nine **Sooty Terns** flying w. by Shinnecock Inlet on the morning of 17 Sep (AJL, SM, P. Buckley, J. Fritz) were the rarest fallout from Hurricane *Floyd*. An impressive 200 Black Terns in Shinnecock Inlet 4 Sep, dwindling to 150 by 6 Sep, were likely refugees from *Dennis*. This column refers often to Black Terns as pelagic migrants; 119 descending the Susquehanna R. past Conejohela Flats 24 Aug revises that image.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A few Snowy Owls, bypassing the north, spread from L.I. to Manasquan Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ, in Nov (P. Bacinski). The record 145 owls banded at Cape May during the hectic night of 7 Nov included one Great Horned, eight Long-eareds, and 136 N. Saw-whets (K. Duffy), the highest single-night total there (and perhaps anywhere). Cape May's total of 386 N. Saw-whets banded was below 1995's mammoth flight. In Pennsylvania, 176 were banded near Eckville, *Berks*, 10 Oct–30 Nov (T. Baumann), plus an astonishing 320 at three c. PA sites, three times the norm. One imperturbable owl spent 20 Oct sleeping atop a speaker blaring rock as workers renovated a building at Sandy Hook, *Monmouth*, NJ (R. Dorrance), and another came aboard a boat 70 mi off Montauk 12 Oct.

Flights of 200+ Com. Nighthawks in four locations were encouraging: the Buffalo suburb of Eggertsville 2 Aug (M. Davis), Guilderland, *Albany*, NY, 27 Aug (WE), and *Lebanon* and *Dauphin*, PA. A continuing census in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia counted 400+ from 22 Aug–20 Oct. Their path along the Wissahickon Valley suggests their migration is influenced by topography. They continued into Oct, with a surprising 58 as late as 4 Oct (DAC). A thousand Chimney Swifts swarmed at Bird Is. Pier, Buffalo, 30 Sep (WW), while 3,000 entered a chimney at Reading, PA, 18 Sep (KK, B. Uhrich). Two Rufous Hummingbirds—below recent numbers but far above the old days—were banded and verified as imm. males (MG): one at Karen Taylor's feeder at Blackwood, *Gloucester*, NJ, 9 Nov+ and another banded at Christine Tabaka's feeder in Hockessin, New Castle, DE, 15 Nov+. The former was the Taylor feeder's second consecutive imm. *Selasphorus*. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand in cen. NY into *Saratoga*, *Washington*, and *Renssalaer* (WE). One does not normally consider them migratory, but three boarded a fishing boat 45 mi e. of Fenwick I., DE, 18 Sep (P. Floyd, *fide* APE); above average numbers also passed Hawk Mt. Woodpecker irruptions are easily overlooked, but counts of Downies and Hairies were also up along the barrier beaches.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

A **Say's Phoebe** visited Cape May 24 Oct (M. Hannisian, FL, D. Shaw, BMo, m.ob., ph. KK); only eight previous state records are accepted. More predictably, Ash-throated Flycatchers were at Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, NY 20 Nov (D. Dyer et al.), and perhaps as many as three different individuals were at Cape May in Nov (PL, R. Crossley, VE, SF, WD, D. Dasey). W. Kingbirds were below par on the coast: only three around NY City/L.I. and about 13 at Cape May. More turned up inland than usual, however, at Guilderland, *Albany*, NY, 13 Oct (WE), Edgmont Twp, *Delaware*, PA, 1 Oct (ph. NPu, J. Ginaven, A. Guarente), and Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, near Philadelphia, 13 Nov (J. Raine, G. Seeholzer, *fide* P. Weirick). A roost of E. Kingbirds at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ, numbered 22,611 birds 26 Aug (PL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher visited Cape May 19 Oct (R. Miller). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was carefully described 13 Aug at Freeville, *Cayuga*, NY (†K. David, E. Radwanski, to NYSARC). Another at Overpeck Park, *Bergen*, 20 Nov (R. Engsberg) showed more usual timing; most appear in late fall, plus a few in late spring.

Two Loggerhead Shrikes, both in w. New York, were more than we now expect: one typically early at Three Rivers W.M.A., *Onandaga*, 12 Aug (J. Brin) and another at Somerset, *Niagara*, 17 Oct (+S.&T. O'Donnell). A middling N. Shrike invasion began in late Oct in the n. and brought ±15 to n. NJ in Nov (JB); the s. limit was cen. PA (five in *Bucks* and singles in *Montgomery* and *Chester*) and s. NJ. White-eyed Vireos were banded for the third straight fall at Kaiser-Manitou, well n. of known breeding areas (20–23 and 27 Sep; EB). Com. Ravens, having reoccupied n. hills, increasingly explore lowlands. One was at Rockland Landing, NY, on the Hudson, 28 Oct; one on the Delaware at Tulleytown Dump 25 Aug was *Burlington* NJ's third modern record (WD). Breeding was reestablished in the state in 1992.

An estimated 56,000 Purple Martins roosted near Mauricetown, *Cumberland*, NJ, 30 Aug (PL). The **Cave Swallow** phenomenon broadened this fall. They have appeared every Nov since 1992 at Cape May and twice

on L.I. (1991, 1998). This fall numbers built at Cape May from one on 1 Nov (AR) to 35+ during the great flight of 7 Nov (PL); a few persisted through Nov. Elsewhere on the coast, one offered a quick look 8 Nov at Hook Pond, E. Hampton, L.I. (HMcG) and details of an imm. at Cape Henlopen 10 Nov (CB) have been submitted to the Delaware rarities committee as a possible state first. The great surprise was a Great Lakes occurrence, two (and maybe more) near Rochester, both 23 Nov (†BE, †DT).

Black-capped Chickadee numbers exploded, though below the scale of 1995. Even Delaware had singles at three feeders (H. Brokaw, LL, F. Rawling). Leucistic individuals with white backs or gray or white on the head were noted at Westport, *Essex* (T. Mack) and in *Dutchess*, NY. (See Unconfirmed Reports, below, for a possible Carolina Chickadee in n. NY.) Few Boreal Chickadees accompanied them, though reports came from Rye, *Westchester*, NY, 7 Nov (AG et al.) and Central Park 16 Nov (T. Fiore). As before, other bark-gleaners also irrupted. Tufted Titmice were in "remarkable number" in the Adirondacks (JMCP) and foothills (RPY). Red-breasted Nuthatches began to move in late summer and were "everywhere" (DH), all the way to Delaware. One thinks less often of White-breasted Nuthatches as irruptive but, as in 1995, they reached unexpected places like Cape May (four observations).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

The only N. Wheatear visited Hoffman Park, near Pittstown, *Hunterdon*, NJ, 18–19 Sep (ph. E. LeGrand). Almost all of nearly 20 other state records are coastal. A Mountain Bluebird, now nearly annual, was convincingly described at Rocky Pt. Natural Resources M.A. on e. L.I. 27 Oct (†J. Horman). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was, typically, on a ridgetop at Hawk Mt. 13 Nov (ph. B. Wallace, et al.), the second record there. A modest Bohemian Waxwing movement crossed the L. Ontario floodplain and Adirondacks, with a high of 100 in *Essex*, NY, 13–14 Nov (R. Hagar, T. Mack, JMCP). An outlier reached E. Hampton, L.I., 28 Nov (HMcG).

Many lamented a poor warbler migration, with spruce-budworm feeders (Tennessee, Bay-breasted, Cape May) at a particularly low ebb. Blackpoll Warblers, however, were numerous (235 banded at Kaiser-Manitou in Sep alone) and late. In addition to the banded birds mentioned above, two lingered at Montauk 7 Nov (ABa) and another at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, 28 Nov. One Audubon's Warbler was typically late at Cape May 12–28 Nov (GG). A late Yellow-throated Warbler 24 Nov at W. Winfield, *Herkimer*, only the second fall record for the Oneida L. basin, reflected this species' recent foothold in NY. Orange-crowned Warbler numbers seemed up, even inland, including five banded at Kaiser-Manitou 1–11 Oct (EB).

Sparrows abounded in late migration movements. Rarities submitted to the NJBRC included a Le Conte's at Palmyra, *Burlington*, 7 Nov (WD) and a Henslow's at Sandy Hook 24 Oct (RR). Lapland Longspurs, usually coastal, were exceptional inland on the Kittatinny summit at Raccoon Ridge, *Warren*, NJ, 11 Oct (ph. B. Hardiman) and on a lake beach at Tamiment Resort in the Poconos, PA, 12 Nov. An ad. male Painted Bunting strayed to Conejohela Flats 24 Oct (†E. Witmer, TG, J. Renninger).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS

Banders at Kaiser-Manitou trapped a chickadee 16 Oct whose measurements and plumage features corresponded to the Carolina Chickadee (†S. Skelly, D. Bonter, D. Semple). Notes and photographs are still under study. This species' n. limit is the Raritan River, NJ, and none has ever been confirmed in New York.

SA Winter finches seemed to begin a major invasion, but rushed down beaches and along ridges and then disappeared. Pine Grosbeaks were not found s. of the Adirondacks. Purple Finches, after many low years, reached figures not seen for a generation (1,595 over Hawk Mt. in Oct). Goldfinches swarmed in early Nov (see opening paragraphs). As many as 200 Red Crossbills gathered in the Jones Beach, L.I., pine groves in early Nov, up to 80 reached Cape May Pt. 15 Nov (GG), and 72 reached Cape Henlopen 13 Nov (FR). Curiously, only scattered small groups were found inland and north. A handful of White-winged Crossbills descended the coast as far as Cape Henlopen, while inland two to three paused 9–10 Nov at Hawk Mt. Perhaps cone failure that had launched winter finches on their journey affected this area no less. Com. Redpolls arrived in the 100s on L.I. in Oct. Two reached Cape May 7 Nov (PL) and two Cape Henlopen, record early, 31 Oct (MG, BP). Evening Grosbeaks, a has-been in this region, rarely exceeded single digits.

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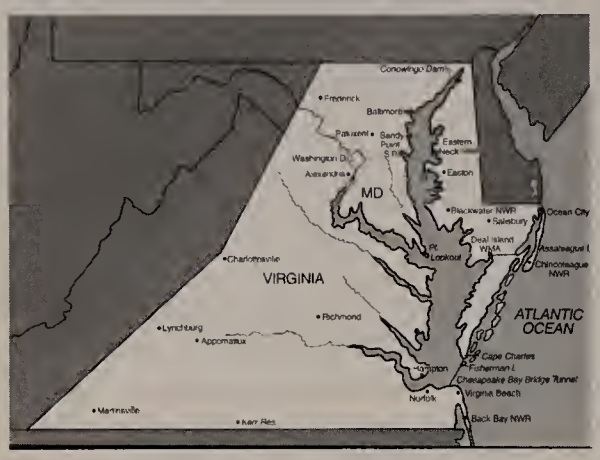
middle atlantic coast



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This season has frequently been referred to as the one where "everything that could irrupt, did." Indeed, by October it seemed we would be in for the winter of all winters, complete with the gamut of finches, a wealth of owls and northern raptors, and constant amusement from Red-breasted Nuthatches. Alas, most movements reached their zenith early in the season and by December even the once-ubiquitous siskins were hard to come by. Two hurricanes hit the Region, but each behaved quite differently and had drastically different effects on birdlife, though seabird fallout was noted with both storms. Several species reported without details were not included. All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia locale is annotated the *first time* it appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assat. *(Assateague Island N.S., Worcester, MD)*; Bay *(Chesapeake Bay)*; C.B.B.T. *(Cheaspeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton, VA)*; Chinc. *(Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA)*; Craney *(Craney I. Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA)*; E.S.V.N.W.R. *(Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA)*; Hart *(Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD)*; Kipt. *(Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA)*; p.a. *(pending acceptance by state records committee)*; P.R.N.A.S. *(Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD)*; P.L.S.P. *(Pt. Lookout S.P., Saint Mary's, MD)*; S.P.S.P. *(Sandy Point S.P., Anne Arundel, MD)*; W.T.P. *(waste water treatment plant)*.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Red-throated Loons seem to be more common on the lower Nanticoke R., *Wicomico*, than previously, with 12 there 28 Nov (JLS). Despite at least two credible reports, the **Pacific Loon** remained through this year as the most surprising omission from the MD state list. This year, finally, the species was well-documented when a report of a possible Pacific Loon 12 Nov (p.a. D. Burggraf) on Conowingo L., *Harford/Cecil*, was followed up and confirmed 14 Nov (†P. O'Brien, EB). Many observers saw this juv. through 28 Nov (SHM, MJI) and it was well-photographed from a boat 19 Nov (ph. M. Hoffman). A juv. **Pacific** was also at Romancoke, *Queen Anne's*, 28 Nov (†JLS), presumably a different bird (although the sightings did not overlap). A small pulse of Red-necked Grebes comprised one imm. at Black Hills Res., *Montgomery*, 27–30 Oct (DC, AR, JLS) and two ad. and one imm. at Conowingo L. 28 Oct (EB), the imm. lingering to 13 Nov (EB). An Eared Grebe at P.R.N.A.S. 11–19 Oct (Walt Graham, ph. GM, KR et al.) was extremely well-documented. A **Western Grebe** at Assat. 1–6 Nov (p.a. †P. Decker, v.o.) would constitute *Worcester's* second if accepted.

Remains of a **Brown Booby** salvaged from Fisherman I., *Northampton*, VA, in Nov would constitute the first specimen and only the fifth VA record (*fide* ESB). It was most likely a deposit from Sep hurricanes because the carcass was badly decomposed. Though identification was apparently well established by measurements, current whereabouts of the specimen are not clear. A much-enjoyed **American White Pelican** was discovered at Wilson Bridge 17 Aug (BC, F. W. Fallon) where it obligingly crisscrossed all three Regional boundaries to provide D.C.'s first (p.a.), Maryland's 25th (p.a.) and *Prince George's* third, and one of few non-coastal Virginia sightings in *Fairfax*. It lingered through 21 Sep (m.ob. ph.†). If arriving from the West, one seen 10 Aug (*fide* FS) at Great Falls, *Montgomery*, may have been the same bird. Other Regional white pelicans were at Kipt. 9 Oct (RLA) and an undocumented *Queen Anne's* first at The Wildfowl Trust 10 Nov(p.a. H. A. Patton). Brown Pelicans were widely seen in the Bay, but interestingly the farthest-flung individuals occurred in late Nov. There is precedence for late-season movement and

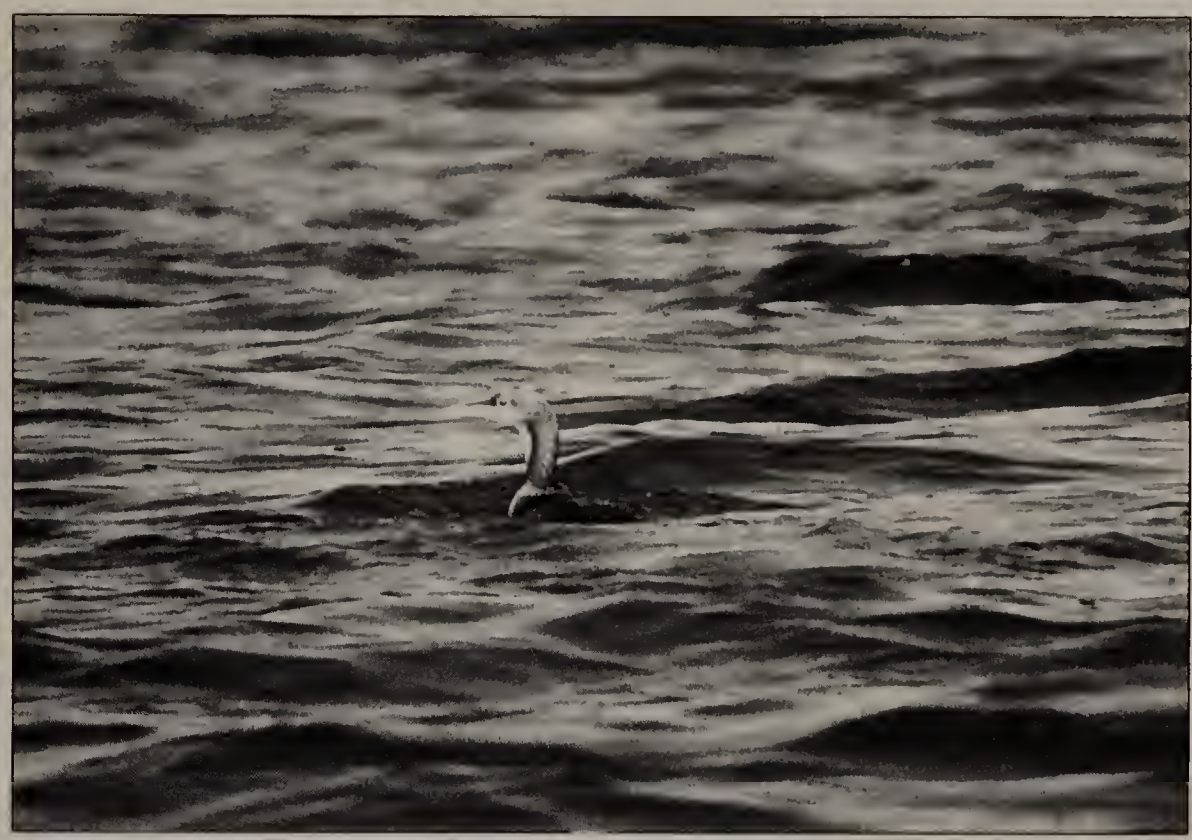
SA The two Regional hurricanes this season (*Dennis* and *Floyd*) behaved very differently and had very different effects on seabirds in the Region. *Dennis* arrived off the mid-Atlantic Coast 30 Aug and stalled offshore for seven days, blasting our coastlines with persistent easterlies. Comparatively little seabird fallout was observed at the C.B.B.T. or elsewhere until it moved onshore on 5 Sep. At the C.B.B.T. 5 Sep (BP, JC, ESB, RM) were five each of Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters, two Greater Shearwaters, one gadfly petrel sp. (probably Black-capped Petrel), and two Wilson's Storm-Petrels. A most interesting observation there was a Brown Pelican devouring a hapless Audubon's Shearwater (HTA). The most unusual effect of *Dennis* was the massive beaching of dead and dying shearwaters along the coastal barrier islands. At Chinc., refuge staff reported salvaging multiple individuals of Cory's and Manx Shearwaters, while Paxton reported counting over 100 Cory's Shearwaters and nearly as many Manx/Audubon's Shearwaters at Assat. Apparently the stationary nature of the storm simply wore out these birds, resulting in massive beaching unlike that seen in any other Regional storm to date. A live Manx Shearwater salvaged from the beach at Ocean City during *Dennis* may become Maryland's first specimen (*fide* Tri-State Rescue, *). That a number of Manx were seen is interesting because pelagic trips at this season rarely record them and find Audubon's Shearwater far more common.

By contrast, *Floyd* dealt a solid blow to the Outer Banks and Tidewater VA before moving over the Eastern Shore of MD and on up the Atlantic Coast. It passed through the Region quickly and with its track east of the Bay (where observers are fewest) it only carried a moderate storm load, at least compared to Hurricane *Fran* of 1996, which tracked far inland and dumped hundreds of storm birds Regionwide. In Maryland the storm-blown tubenoses 16 Sep were an *Oceanodroma* storm-petrel at N. Beach, *Calvert*, (p.a. JLS) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel at Ocean City Inlet (C&DB). Several parties that walked the beaches found nothing at all.

this year there were five, a *Charles* first, at the Rte. 301 bridge over the Potomac R. 23 Nov (J. Smith) and one at N. Beach 26 Nov (DB, GM, BC). Far out-of-place inland and defying explanation was one at L. Artemesia, *Prince George's*, 25 Sep (DM). Very early imm. Great Cormorants were at P.L.S.P. 8 Aug (ph.PC) and Havre de Grace, *Harford*, 28 Aug (EB, Brian Monk). Locally rare were one at Jug Bay 2–6 Nov (DM, DB et al.) and an ad. at Conowingo L. 5 Nov (EB). A leucistic Double-crested Cormorant was seen at Fisherman I. 11 Nov (W. Beebe). Up to two Anhingas continued at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, through at least 2 Oct (v.o.). **Frigatebirds,** presumably Magnificent, were at Suffolk, VA, 30 Aug (B. Chambers), Perrin Cr., *Gloucester*, VA, 2 Oct (v.t. *fide* LL), and West Pt. Bridge, *Prince William*, VA, 6 Oct (W. Baker). Only the Suffolk bird could really be associated with hurricane. A Least Bittern at Chinc. 2 Oct (KG) was late. The last Green Heron was at Jug Bay 7 Nov (DB, CMM) and 25 Cattle Egrets were notably late at Girdletree 15 Nov (J&DC). Four White Ibis at Hooper's I., *Dorchester*, 1 Sep (KR) were especially remarkable given all were adults. An imm. **Wood Stork** at Walkersville was a one-day wonder 2 Aug (p.a. ph. WLH et al.), but was well photographed for a *Frederick* first.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The only Gr. White-fronted Goose reported was one at Curles Neck Farm, *Henrico*, VA, 11–14 Nov (F. Day et al.). Easy to find in the Region with any effort, Ross's Goose reports continue, with sightings from Chinc., Hog I., Surry, VA, Curles Neck Farm, and Snow Hill, *Worcester*. An ad. at Kipt. 18–22 Nov (M. Argenteanu et al.) associated with Canada Geese and provided a rare area record. A rare event for the Upper Bay was an impressive Brant flight 24 Oct: Blom counted 117 in several groups flying down the Susquehanna R. from Conowingo Dam, *Harford/Cecil*, while a different group of 50 passed Turkey Pt., *Cecil* (S. Crabtree, LF). With its large Canada Goose populations, the Region gets a lion's share of records of small-race individuals, most presumably *hutchinsii*. This season singles were at Dameron, *Saint Mary's*, 6, 7, and 11 Oct (PC), Eldersburg, *Carroll*, 11 Oct (RFR), and Daniels, *Howard*, 1 Nov (BSo). A notable high count was the 642 N. Pintail in the Bloodsworth I., *Dorchester*, area 30 Oct (HTA). The first Eur. Wigeon was early at Deal I. W.M.A., *Somerset*, 25 Sep (SHD), followed by single males at Airlie, *Fauquier*, VA,



Maryland's first record of the Pacific Loon was provided by this juvenile along the Susquehanna River 12–28 Nov 1999 and photographed 19 Nov. Photograph/Mark L. Hoffman

24 Oct (SHe), W. Ocean City Pond 30 Oct–7 Nov (E. Joyce, ph. JLS, v.o.), Summerfield L., VA, 18 Nov (SHe), and Chinc. 26–27 Nov (C. Loeper, J&DC, BSo). This year amounted to a dismal one for eiders. The only 1999 King Eider in MD was an unseasonable female at Ocean City 5 Sep (ph. JLS, RL). Com. Eiders showed up only at Cape Charles, *Northampton*, VA, 22 Nov (ESB) and at both Chinc. and Ocean City 27 Nov (L&DM). The first Harlequin Ducks were three at Ocean City 15 Nov; the first in VA were two females at C.B.B.T. 27 Nov (L&DM). Four Com. Mergansers at Susquehanna S.P., *Harford*, 18 Sep (MH) were out of season but at a traditional location where birds sometimes summer. Breeding (unknown in the Region) on this river is conceivable. As in several recent years, Ruddy Ducks seemed widespread and in excellent numbers.

The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch was manned this year by Hopkins (776.05 hours), and despite losing many count days to hurricanes, she tallied 42,681 hawks and vultures (Table 1; see www.cvwo.org and www.birdsource.org/HawkWatch for more details). Notable flights were 238 Ospreys 18 Sep and a late 16 on 12 Nov, 20 Bald Eagles 28 Oct, seven N. Goshawk 17 Nov (record), 289 Red-tailed Hawks 8 Nov, four Rough-legged Hawks 19 Oct (record), 234 Peregrine Falcon 26 Sep (second-highest total), and 275 Merlin 27 Sep and 234 on 29 Sep, continuing the amazing run of high counts there in the last third of Sep. Surprisingly, no unusual Am. Kestrel numbers were counted around 30 Sep, when Cape May had a whopping 4,000+ with nw. winds largely to blame. A disappointment was the lack of Swainson's Hawks this year (eight last year), though a juv. was at Kipt. 23 Aug (BT), the earliest Regional record. The invasion of Rough-legged Hawks (7 light, 6 dark, 1 intermediate) and N. Goshawks was surely the highlight; given the preponderance of unfavorable nw. winds in Nov one wonders how many moved down the other side of the peninsula and were missed. Both were widely reported elsewhere as well, with the first Rough-legged at Hart 9 Oct (EJS et al.). A juv. Mississippi Kite was at Gunston Hall, *Fairfax*, VA, 30 Aug (Earl Baisinger) and another was near Williamsburg, VA, 5 Sep (BT).

Alarmingly, of 31 N. Bobwhite reports, most were of singles and only three of coveys of 10–15. Greg Kearns again conducted banding of Soras at Jug Bay from early Sep–early Nov. This year's total was only 300 (compared to last year's 1,300) and the lower proportion of juveniles (5:1 vs. 15:1 last year) indicated a poor breeding year, doubtless due to drought conditions in the Northeast. Up to 60 radio transmitters were fitted on the birds in early Oct and a surprising number of Soras (up to 20!) lingered through mid-Nov. Also surprising was the departure of about 12 on one early Nov night following a cold front. A Black Rail was flushed from a field by a mower near Locustville, *Accomack*, VA, 12 Nov (G.

Reiger). A Virginia Rail at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery*, 28 Nov (AR) was surprisingly late for an inland locale. Com. Moorhens were out of place at Centennial L., *Howard*, 17–22 Sep (E. Holdridge, v.o.), Clopper L., *Montgomery*, 19 Oct (AR), and Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, 9–30 Nov+ (EH et al.), with two imm. at Dutch Gap Conservation Area, *Chesterfield*, VA, 26–30 Sep (LL et al.). An ad. Sandhill Crane at Tarbutton Mill Rd., *Talbot*, was discovered by birders 25 Oct (L. Willey) and remained to winter, but apparently was present for "several months" according to the farmer. A Jul or Aug arrival would not match this species' migration peak, possibly raising suspicions about its natural occurrence.

As in most recent years, Am. Golden-Plovers again were reported in excellent numbers. It is encouraging to think the increase results from population recovery, but it seems more likely a result of better coverage, especially with increased Eastern Shore focus. The highlight was 151 (mostly juv.) at a flooded field in *Caroline* 26 Sep (JLS). A Piping Plover was found again at Bethel Beach Preserve, *Mathews*, VA, 6–9 Aug (J&DM). Black-necked Stilts usually depart early, so two at St. Jerome's Cr. 1 Sep (KR) were late (but were a *Saint Mary's* second) and one at Chinc. 19 Sep (EH, B. Leeuwenberg) was especially so. Though Delaware gets hundreds, the Region's only regular Am. Avocet locations are Chinc., Craney, and Hart (one 28 Aug; EJS). Four at Scotland, *Saint Mary's*, 5 Aug (PC) were rarities. Small ponds at Ridgely W.T.P., *Caroline*, received widespread attention. Highlights among 18 shorebird species were an Am. Golden-Plover 9–10 Aug (GF, L. Roslund), *Caroline*'s second Hudsonian Godwit record with nine 25–26 Aug (RL, ph. JLS, ph. GMJ), Sanderlings 4 Aug (RH, LS) and 15 Aug (JLS), and seven White-rumped Sandpipers 20 Sep (JLS, MH). The only other Hudsonian Godwit was at Craney 11–12 Nov (D. Clark, D. L. Hughes). Havre de Grace produced good shorebirds, the best a Red Knot 18 Aug (EB). The Virginia Barrier Islands support immense staging Whimbrel flocks, evidenced by a count of 1,000+ in the Cobb I. area 15 Aug (J. S. Weske *fide* HTA). Baird's Sandpipers were found a number of times, with reports from *Wicomico, Frederick, Baltimore, Caroline*, and *Dorchester* and two at Aldino Sod Farm, *Harford*, 28 Aug (EB) and N. Beach 8 Oct (JLS). A Purple Sandpiper was at S.P.S.P., the first there in many years in Nov (HLW). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen widely; in addition to birds at traditional sites such as P.R.N.A.S., Hart, Bullfrog Rd. Pond, *Frederick*, and John Brown Rd. Turf Farm, *Queen Anne's*, were a flyby in the central Bay, *Somerset*, 21 Aug (JLS) and *Caroline*'s second just n. of Ridgely 4 Sep (NS, FS). Fourteen was a record high for P.R.N.A.S. 9 Sep (KR). Single Long-billed Dowitchers reported regularly at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, 21 Aug–21 Oct (KG, m.ob.) involved one or several birds. A much-admired juv. Red-necked Phalarope at P.L.S.P. 5–9 Aug (ph. JLS, ph. GMJ, m.ob.) was a *Saint Mary's* first until *Floyd* dropped seven in at P.R.N.A.S. 16 Sep (KR). One at Opal, *Fauquier*, VA, 22–23 Aug (†TMD, KG et al.) was a great inland sighting; 17 at Craney 7 Sep and 16 the next day (LW) was unprecedented, undoubtedly due to *Dennis*. Other *Dennis* Red-neckeds were two at the C.B.B.T. 5 Sep (RLA et al.), two at Williamsburg 5 Sep (BT), and one at Spring Meadow Farms, *Howard*, 6 Sep (P. Norman); one at Rum Pt. Golf Course, *Worcester*, 16 Sep was surely a gift of *Floyd* (SHD).

JAEGERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

Hurricanes moved jaegers into the Bay, with firsts in Maryland in recent history. A Pomarine at P.L.S.P. 8 Sep (GM, JLS) was a county first, as was a Parasitic there 2 Oct (GM, GMJ). An imm. Parasitic at Cobb I., *Charles*, was likewise a county first 17 Sep (GMJ) and was preceded by light adults at P.R.N.A.S. (KR) and N. Beach 16 Sep (T. Harten). Two jaeger sp. were seen from nearby Rose Haven, *Anne Arundel*, 16 Sep (B. Abrams, TMD). C.B.B.T. gets jaegers considerably more regularly, but a dark juv. Long-tailed 5 Sep (JC, BP, RM) was superb, as was one of few MD reports, a juv. off Ocean City 19 Sep (p.a.BP). Little known on Virginia's Piedmont outside of the context of storms, counts of 175 Laughing Gulls near Bristow, *Prince William*, VA, 30 Sep (TMD) and up to 400 there a month later may indicate more regular presence in some sectors. An interesting leucistic Laughing Gull was at E.A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester*, 16 Aug (DM). The Region continues to produce Franklin's Gulls regularly. A first-winter at Haines Pt., D.C., lingered 7–18 Sep (OJ et al.) and Craney had one 23 Oct (C. Smith). Brown's Station Landfill, *Prince George's*, perhaps the most regular Regional locale, produced lone first-winters 16 (GMJ) and 30 Oct (ph. OJ), joined by another 22 Oct (JLS, GMJ, JBC), probably involving the same bird on the three dates. A first-winter was at Craney 22 Oct (C. Smith). August arrival of juv. Bonaparte's Gulls is always interesting; this year one was at Seneca, *Montgomery*, 11 Aug (DC) and another at the Wilson Bridge 14 Aug (DC). An Iceland Gull at Linkwood, *Dorchester*, 27 Nov (JBC, M. Callahan) was a bit early. The much-acclaimed **Kelp Gull** continued through the season at Sandgates, *Saint Mary's*.

Two Gull-billed Terns at Vienna 10 Aug (D&CB) were a rare *Wicomico* second. A Royal Tern at Havre de Grace was out of place 2 Sep (R. Hagenston) and may have been deposited by *Dennis*. Another at Gravelly Pt., D.C., was rare so far up the Potomac R. 13 Sep (SS). Sandwich Terns staged a fine showing at the coast and in *Saint Mary's*, with one ad. at Havre de Grace 10 Aug (EB, R. Hagenston) being the most unusual and providing a *Harford* first. In the winds of *Dennis*, an ad. Roseate Tern at Magotha Landing, *Northampton*, was out of place away from barrier islands 5 Sep (ESB, BP, JC). Better still was an ad. **Arctic**

An immature Franklin's Gull with Laughing Gulls at Brown Station Landfill, Prince Georges, Maryland, 23 Oct 1999. Photograph/Jim Stasz

Tern at the C.B.B.T. 2–5 Sep (RM, ESB, BP, JC et al.), a first there and one of the latest Regional records. Least Terns withdraw sharply in early Sep, so a juv. at Ocean City 17 Sep (JLS) and one at Bethel Beach Preserve 20 Sep (J&DM) were noteworthy. Strays far up the Potomac R. occurred at Ft. Belvoir, *Fairfax*, VA, 18 Aug (Greg Fleming) and Jones Pt., D.C., 16 Sep (SS), the latter the result of *Floyd*. Nine Bridled Terns on the 12 Sep (BP et al.) pelagic from Virginia Beach was a decent tally. During *Dennis* a single Sooty/Bridled Tern was seen over E.S.V.N.W.R. 30 Aug (JC) while a **Bridled Tern,** the second away from the MD coast and first for *Saint Mary's*, was at P.L.S.P. 2–7 Sep (†PC et al.); it was joined by a second bird 7 Sep (p.a. †PC). Also storm-related were Black Skimmers at S.P.S.P. 6 Sep (S. Riccardi) and at Georgetown Res., D.C., 7 Sep (T. Unseth, RH, OJ et al.). Single Bridleds on the MD coast were one imm. roosting with terns at W. Ocean City (C&DB) and one flyby at Ocean City Inlet (JLS, RL). One at P.R.N.A.S. was more unusual (p.a. †KR). Two **Sooty Terns** seen 16 Sep were a *Saint Mary's* first at P.R.N.A.S. (p.a. †KR); three were at Ocean City Inlet (p.a. †C&DB) and two were at BAck Bay N.W.R. 2 Sep (L. Gore). Black Terns made a good showing in Aug, including one inland at Browns Bridge, *Howard*, 22 Aug (J&DC et al.) and firsts for Ridgely W.W.T.P., with two 26 Aug (JLS, GMJ) and one 24 Sep (SHM), also the last of the season. Hurricanes did not have a noticeable effect on Black Terns. A flyby **Thick-billed Murre** at Ocean City Inlet 6 Nov (p.a. †JLS) would constitute Maryland's ninth and the third for November.

A small pulse of Snowy Owls resulted in one at Chinc. 26 Nov (C. Leoper). Evidence of an excellent Short-eared Owl year were up to three at Bull Run Post Office Rd., *Fairfax*, VA, 24 Nov+ (B. Frazier) and a high of 12 at Deal I. W.M.A. 27 Nov (JLS, MH, K. Fehskens).

The latest reported Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at a Towson, *Baltimore*, feeder 16–30 Oct (J. Murphy). Rufous Hummingbirds are nothing short of regular and annual these days. This year one was at a *Carroll* feeder 25 Sep+, while another arrived at Paul Dowell's *Prince George's* feeder in early Nov+; both provided county firsts, were banded and photographed by Gustafson (p.a.), and were identified as ad. females. The real stage was at Vienna, *Fairfax*, where Mary & Luther Martin began hosting an im. female Rufous ("Ms. Rufous") 31 Oct (or earlier?). It lingered through the end of the season (m.ob. ph.), being later joined by two others (see winter report)!

A flyby ad. **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was heading n. at Kipt. 26 Oct (p.a. JC) for about Virginia's fourth record. A **Gray Kingbird** at Sunset Beach Inn, *Northampton*, 29 Oct (B. J. Rose) was about as unusual, constituting Virginia's ninth; another was seen 19 Sep (R. H. Swiader) at Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia Beach. The only W. Kingbird was enjoyed near Kipt. 10–11 Oct (B. Ake, m.ob.). Oyster, *Northampton*, VA, produced 535 E. Kingbirds 5 Sep (HTA). A shrike at a Bel Air, *Harford*, feeder 27–28 Nov (M. Muth) must have been a Northern, but one at Reisterstown, *Baltimore*, 27 Oct (GF) was perhaps more likely a Loggerhead (as it was originally identified). Essentially gone from the Region, single Loggerheads at Remmington, *Fauquier*, 23 Aug (TMD et al.), at Lilypons, *Frederick*, 28–30 Nov (WLH, CMM), and near Poolesville, *Montgomery*, 24 Nov+ (L. Schindler) made for an above-average total. A Warbling Vireo at Rock Cr. Park, D.C., 21 Oct (GM, BC) was exceptionally late.

Fewer late-lingering swallows were reported than usual, exceptions being a Bank on 11 Oct at Perryman, *Harford* (RFR) and a 3 Nov (CMM) N. Rough-winged at P.L.S.P. corresponding closely with a large eastward displacement of Cave Swallows by a low-pressure system. This exceptional movement brought a **Cave Swallow** (p.a.) to E.S.V.N.W.R. 4 Nov (BS, ESB, BT), 6 Nov (B. Williams), 12 Nov (BS), and two 18 Nov (*fide* ESB). Virginia's first report came 1 Nov 1998 from the same area. Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the Region in force, the first reports coming 22 Aug, with daily sightings thereafter. On 12 Sep (LF, MWW) 50+ were at Turkey Pt., *Cecil*, and comparable numbers were widespread with reports from nearly every backyard. By late Nov the species was less in evidence but a good number stayed to winter. Five Sedge Wrens at Easton W.T.P. 22 Aug (JR) was a great number there; one at Indian Cr. W.M.A. 1 Oct (JLS) and two there the next day (GMJ) were rare for *Charles*. One was at Dulles Greenways, *Loudoun*, 10 Aug (KG). Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Fairfax*, VA, 6 Oct–21 Nov (D. Smith) while one long-stayer in Cape Charles was first seen 28 Nov (ESB).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue-winged Warbler with an injured foot remained in D.C. on the late date of 23 Oct (OJ, RH, LS). A very late Cape May Warbler was in a Williamsburg, VA, backyard 29 Nov (M. Weber). A 7 Nov (KG) Blackpoll Warbler at Dyke Marsh was unusual. One of the better warbler movements this year occurred 12 Sep, when the 16 spp. at Turkey Pt. (LF, MWW et al.) included 50 Magnolias, 30 Chestnut-sideds, 12 Tennessees, and ten Black-throated Blues. A Canada Warbler banded 1 Aug (JG) at Chino Farms was notably early. At the small oasis of Rock Cr. Park in D.C., an impressive collection of early warblers 10 Aug (GM, BC) included one Nashville, two Chestnut-sideds, one Blackburnian, and two Canadas.

A wintering Le Conte's Sparrow found at E.S.V.N.W.R. 21 Nov (BS) and remained at least through the CBC season. The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at University of MD Central Farm 22–23 Oct

SA One of the most incredible movements of the season was documented by the growing guild of N. Saw-whet Owl banders across the Region. There were four operational banding stations this year, Assateague, Kiptopeke, Jug Bay, and Adkins Arboretum, *Caroline*, all using powerful audio lures and mist nets. These stations and others outside the Region reported a boom year, with record or near-record numbers and a high proportion (80% at Kiptopeke) of juveniles. The Jug Bay station captured a record 45 owls in 35 nights 13 Oct–27 Nov; all but five were juvs. The best single night on the coast was 7–8 Nov (BS, BPa) when the Kiptopeke station (in its sixth year) banded a national record of 173 new birds (plus seven recaptures). Compared to 1995, the only other invasion year with comparable coverage, this movement appeared to be stronger in the mountains but weaker on the coast (1,007 banded at Kiptopeke in 1995). Montane movement is a full two to three weeks earlier than coastal movement and involves a higher proportion of adults. Migration is bi-modal on the coast, with juveniles peaking in early Nov and adults peaking later in Nov. A surprising reverse migrant banded at Kiptopeke 7 Nov and was recovered at Cape May the next night! These invasions can be closely tied to periods of extremely high owl productivity, given high ratios of juveniles. At Kiptopeke in 1996, 86% of 91 birds caught were adults.

(BO, ph. GMJ, m.ob.), about the 10th inland record for MD and third for *Howard*. No exceptional Clay-colored Sparrow numbers were reported from the coast, but singles at Chicawicomico Cr., *Dorchester*, 25 Sep (JLS), a county first, and P.L.S.P. 1 Nov (PC) were unusual. Maryland's earliest White-crowned Sparrow on record was found 18 Sep in Finksburg, *Carroll* (RFR). Rare Midwest *Zonotrichia* staged an unusual movement. An ad. **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow** banded at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's*, 3 Oct (p.a. JG, RL) was on the heels of one banded there in the spring. An imm. *gambelii* was at Dameron, *Saint Mary's*, 14–15 Oct (p.a. ph. PC) and Virginia's first was an ad. at E.S.V.N.W.R. 12 Nov (BS, ESB). An ad. **Harris's Sparrow** (p.a.) staked out the Harvey's feeder in Sykesville, to be found 18 Nov when Dave and Maureen returned from travel. It lingered well into the winter and was enjoyed by many (m.ob. ph.).

Phragmites stands at Oyster, *Northampton*, VA, are a great location to watch numerous migrants settle in for the night. Large numbers of Bobolinks usually are found, but 13,010 there 5 Sep (HTA) was well above average. An ad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Hooper's I., 18 Sep (HTA, P. R. Spitzer) was the only report. Purple Finches moved in good numbers, with near-daily reports 6 Oct+ (following a few Sep reports), though few large numbers were reported. Pine Siskins staged an even more impressive movement: by the end of Oct, judging from Internet reports, hardly a feeder in the Region lacked siskins. The movement rushed in, with the first report from Kipt. 1 Oct (SH) followed by widespread reports two weeks later. To the disappointment of most, the invasion fizzled by mid-Nov. Com. Redpolls also flirted with a large-scale invasion but their movement was limited to a distinct push 12–13 Nov, when reports came from Kipt. (four banded, a first there), Back Bay N.W.R., Assat., and C.B.B.T., the latter a first record there 12 Nov (C. Cabe). Outside this brief window, the only reports were of one banded 20 Nov (JG) at Chino Farms and one at E.S.V.N.W.R. 28 Nov (BS). Red Crossbills were more consistent, occurring at Kipt. almost daily 22 Oct+, with a high of 22 on 3 Nov (SH). Even White-winged Crossbills appeared, with a male at a Stockton, *Worcester*, feeder 12–13 Nov (F. Hirst) and five flybys at E.S.V.N.W.R. 18 Nov (BS). The Evening Grosbeak movement peaked 1–13 Nov, with reports even from Virginia's Eastern Shore, which has not had them in several years. In keeping with the theme, Am. Goldfinches were in excellent numbers.

SA Given extreme variation and complexities among the Slate-colored and Oregon Junco groups, claims of both Oregon and Pink- sided from the East are shrouded in mystery. Further, since juncoes are not (presently) awarded specific status, they are rarely well documented or given due attention by the birders. Thus, top honors for the most exciting bird of the season may go to a male **Pink-sided Junco** found at Kipt. 10 Nov by Hopkins. Widely seen and photographed by many through at least Jan, this individual represented one of few ironclad East Coast records amid a swarm of suspected mis-identifications (though there may be a specimen from Maryland).

ADDENDA

The results of a fall hawkwatch at Snicker's Gap (on the Regional boundary) were omitted from the Fall 1998 report (*N. Am. Birds* 53:39–43). A record-smashing 19,004 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied 16 Sep (B. Harry), comprising the bulk of the seasonal count of 25,889 Broad-wingeds (the average is 5,152) and 29,554 total hawks. The watch had its third **Swainson's Hawk** 13 Sep (B. Abrams), one of few for the Virginia Piedmont, and a good count of 12 Peregrine Falcons 6 Oct (K. Kirkpatrick). *Accipiter* numbers were roughly half average, with N. Goshawks under-represented (seven compared to an average of 21).

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Table 1. Results of the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, Fall 1999

Species	1999 Total	Remarks
Black Vulture	782	
Turkey Vulture	4,188	
Osprey	3,085	up from 1998, below 5-year average
Bald Eagle	236	up from 1998, below 5-year average
Northern Harrier	1,626	near record 1,697 in 1995
Cooper's Hawk	1,902	
Northern Goshawk	27 juv.	record was 26 in 1997
Red-shouldered Hawk	145	
Broad-winged Hawk	956	low
Red-tailed Hawk	2,261	near record 2,370 in 1996
Rough-legged Hawk	14	doubles *total* of 23-year history of watch
Golden Eagle	14 juv.	
American Kestrel	9,678	
Merlin	2,086	average
Peregrine Falcon	897	

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

southern atlantic coast

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The fall was generally dry, with many areas experiencing near-drought conditions. A major exception was in eastern North Carolina, hit with two major storms: Hurricane-Tropical Storm *Dennis* (30 Aug–5 Sep) and Hurricane *Floyd* (15–16 Sep). *Dennis* caused considerable coastal damage, mostly in the southern areas, whereas *Floyd* brought record rainfall, causing unprecedented flooding in much of the coastal plain. Birdlife seemed not to suffer too much, but several of the area's observers did. In August, temperatures were hotter than normal, but the rest of the period was mostly average. October and November ended up being considerably mild; thus, there was no shortage of lingering birds in the Region.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. *(Bird Records Committee);* C. Hatt. *(Cape Hatteras, NC);* E.L.H. *(E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton Co., GA);* H.B.S.P. *(Huntington Beach S.P., SC);* L.M. *(Lake Mattamuskeet, NC);* P.I. *(Pea I. N.W.R., NC);* S.S.S. *(Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper Co., SC);* W.M.A. *(Wildlife Management Area);* W.T.P. *(wastewater treatment plant).*

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The only inland Red-throated Loon was in *Carroll*, GA, 28 Nov (BZ). The peak inland Com. Loon count was 200 on L. Norman, NC, 7 Nov (TL). The rare Red-necked Grebe was found several times, with one on L. Hartwell, *Hart*, GA, 31 Oct–1 Nov (JF, EH, BZ), one at L.M. 14 Nov (HW et al.), and two in *Carroll*, GA, 28 Nov (BZ). Eared Grebes were found in normal numbers, with maxima being seven at S.S.S. 13 Oct (SC) and seven on L. Lanier, GA, 6 Nov (EH). South Carolina got its fourth **Western Grebe,** on L. Wallace near Bennettsville 13 Aug–22 Oct (BG, m.ob.).

The month of August saw a busy pelagic birding schedule, but September storms brought activity to a screeching halt. N. Carolina *Pterodroma* petrels included Heralds off Oregon Inlet 7 Aug (PG et al.) and Wilmington 3 Aug (WI), Fea's off Hatteras 8 Aug (BP et al.), and another **Bermuda Petrel** off Hatteras 14 Aug (BP et al.). Representing about the fifth N. Carolina report, this species is probably annual in the state's offshore waters. Some high counts included 6,219 Cory's and 210 Greater Shearwaters off Oregon Inlet 7 Aug (BP et al.) and 150 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels off Oregon Inlet 16 Aug (BP et al.). Always rare in summer, Sooty Shearwaters found were two off Hatteras 7 Aug (BP et al.) and one off Oregon Inlet 8 Aug (PG et al.). The always exciting White-faced Storm-Petrel was located several times, with singles off Oregon Inlet 7 Aug (PG et al.) and 29 Aug (BP et al.) and three off Wilmington, NC, 1–8 Aug (WI). White-tailed Tropicbird reports were low this year, with singles off Hatteras 8 Aug and off Oregon Inlet 16 Aug (BP et al.) the only offshore sightings. One was found dead on the beach at Ocracoke, NC, 9 Sep following Hurricane *Dennis* (ML). Other *Dennis*-related sightings included single Black-capped Petrels on Roanoke Sound 31 Aug (JL) and Ocracoke I. 4 Sep (EHa), 196 Cory's and 81 Audubon's Shearwaters dead on the beach at Ocracoke I. 9 Sep (ML), and 25 Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Roanoke Sound 31 Aug (KW, JL).

Am. White Pelicans made news in the ACE Basin, SC, area, with a flock of 27 at Donnelley W.M.A. 30 Aug (SH) and 17–20 at Bear I. W.M.A. late Aug–late Oct (RC, CE, LG, TMu, v.o.). The only Magnificent Frigatebird report was of one at Paris I., SC, 24–27 Sep (*fide* V. Atkins). Reddish Egrets continue to be regular in the Region. The best counts were five at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, 27 Aug (PS) and three at Little St. Simon's I., GA, 3 Oct (MC et al.). Of note was one at H.B.S.P. that remained through the fall (JP, DF, v.o.). A Roseate Spoonbill was locally rare at Hilton Head I., SC, 28 Sep until at least 23 Oct (NL, DC, v.o.). The usual Brunswick-Jekyll I., GA, flock reached record numbers when 34 were counted there 29 Aug (DL).

Waterfowl numbers seemed down, probably due to the mild conditions. Nevertheless, some interesting sightings were had. The rare Gr. White-fronted Goose was found twice, at L. Hartwell, GA, 14 Nov (*fide* TM) and Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, 16 Nov (RD). An imm. male Com. Eider was found sick at H.B.S.P. on the early date of 8 Oct (*fide* JP); it was picked up 13 Oct and died at a shelter (JP). Excellent inland scoter totals were up to 14 Surfs on L. Hickory, NC, 25 Oct–30 Nov (D&LM) and an amazing count of 10 White-wingeds at the Hemingway W.T.P., SC, 24 Oct (MT). Also of note were two Blacks early at H.B.S.P. 5 Sep (JP, GP). Georgia had several Long-tailed Ducks, with singles at L. Walter F. George 8 Nov (MB) and Plant Scherer, *Monroe*, 13–20 Nov (GB et al., MB et al.).

Out-of-range Swallow-tailed Kites were at Fountain Inn, *Greenville*, SC, 26 Aug (PSh, PW) and near Boomer, *Wilkes*, NC, 23 Aug (BR). Rare Golden Eagle sightings involved imms. over Tucker, GA, 30 Oct (JS) and at Surf City, NC, 6 Nov (*fide* TP) for a rare coastal report. Peregrines continue to do well; the best count received was 17 near Darien, GA, 9 Oct (*fide* TM). Always a surprise, a Yellow Rail was flushed at Jekyll I. 1 Oct (BB), the only sighting of this elusive but regular species. Locally rare Sandhill Cranes were near Shelby, NC, 25 Aug–late Sep (JM, v.o.) and at the N. Myrtle Beach airport, SC, 22 Nov (*fide* JP). At the Donnelley W.M.A., SC, three adults (released there in 1998) were joined by two wild youngsters in Oct (LG, TMu, DB). The peak count from the Georgia migration corridor was 7,200 over *Cobb* 30 Nov (CS).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

Am. Golden-Plovers once again made an excellent showing in the Region. Better totals included 45 from the Cherry Hospital fields, *Wayne*, NC, 23 Sep (ED, GH) after Hurricane *Floyd*, 26 at the Wright Bros. Memorial, Kill Devil Hills, NC, 5 Sep (J&PWr, JL), and seven at the Orangeburg Sod Farm, SC, 29 Aug (RC et al.). Rare inland Am. Avocets were two at Jordan L., NC, 3 Aug (*fide* WC), one at Santee N.W.R., SC, 17 Oct (RC, CE), one at L. Murray, SC, 31 Oct (LG, DD), and two at L. Brown, Barnwell, SC, 31 Oct (MT). Upland Sandpiper numbers were down; maxima were 13 at the Orangeburg Sod Farm 23 Aug (TK et

al.) and 10 near Plymouth, NC, 27 Aug (RD). Long-billed Curlews included two inland in *Jones*, NC, 5 Sep (CB) following Hurricane *Dennis*, one on Edisto Beach, SC, 26 Nov (SG et al.), and one each at St. Simon's I. and Little St. Simon's I., GA, 3 Oct (*fide* TM). N. Carolina's third **Black-tailed Godwit** was at the Cherry Hospital fields 23 Sep (ED), following Hurricane *Floyd*. The bird was observed at close range but in flight only as it circled the field several times, then departed. It circled over a Hudsonian Godwit present at the same time! N. Carolina had other inland godwits, with a Hudsonian at Falls L. 21–23 Aug (CEl, LT, v.o.) and a Marbled at Jordan L. 28 Aug–4 Sep (WC et al., CEl, LT). Baird's Sandpipers were well represented, with at least nine reports, some related to Hurricane *Dennis*. The most interesting sightings were two on a sandbar in the Saluda R., SC, 4 Sep (TK) and one at L. Buchanan, *Haralson*, GA, 10 Sep (MB). Continuing a recent trend, only one report of Curlew Sandpiper was received, of two at P.I. 7 Aug (JB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers continued to be widespread. Once again all states reported them, with the best counts being six at the Georgia Sod Farm, *Floyd*, GA, 5 Sep (MB et al.), six at Sod Atlanta, *Bartow*, GA, 19 Sep (*fide* JH), and three at the Orangeburg Sod Farm 23 Aug (TK et al.). The peak count of Wilson's Phalarope at S.S.S. was 10 on 3 Aug (SC); one at E.L.H. 5 Aug (PR) was locally rare. The Red-necked Phalarope made news this season. Locally rare were singles at E.L.H. 5–7 Aug (EB, JS, v.o.), Jordan L. 11 Aug (DS), L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, 23–26 Sep (SCa, v.o.), L. Tillery, NC, 24 Oct–early Nov (GG), and Jekyll I. 23 Sep–3 Oct (NL, LTh, m.ob.). Hurricane *Dennis* grounded some in e. N. Carolina also, with the best count being 12 at Falls L. 6 Sep (RD, CEl). Dennis also produced a Red Phalarope at Falls L. 6 Sep (RD). Finally, unrelated to any storm was one at L. Hickory, NC, 7 Oct (D&LM), a rare local sighting.

South Polar Skuas were found several times off N. Carolina. The best totals were a record one-day count of seven off Hatteras 7 Aug (BP et al.) and three off Wilmington 1–8 Aug (WI). The always noteworthy Long-tailed Jaeger was found off Hatteras, NC, 8 Aug and off Oregon Inlet, NC, 29 Aug (BP et al.) and inland at New Bern, NC, 30 Aug (BH) during Hurricane *Dennis*. Rare gulls included a Little at Kill Devil Hills, NC, 13 Nov (*fide* HW), a Black-headed at C. Hatt. 3 Nov (TP et al.), a Thayer's at Oregon Inlet, NC, 6 Nov (DH et al.), and a Glaucous at Ft. Fisher, NC, 27–28 Nov (MG). A **Sabine's Gull** at S.S.S. 13 Sep (SC) was only the third or fourth report for that state. Inland terns in N. Carolina due to hurricanes included two Sandwiches at Falls L. 6 Sep (RD), 150 Com. at Lookout Shoals L. 15 Sep (D&LM), 50 Forster's at Jordan L. 16 Sep (WC et al.), 20 Bridleds at New Bern 16 Sep (BH, WF), and eight Sooties at New Bern 30 Aug (BH). Pelagic trips out of Hatteras recorded excellent numbers of tropical terns, with record one-day totals of 154 Sooties 7 Aug and 111 Bridleds 8 Aug (BP et al.). The Black Tern migration was uneventful, with peak counts being 26 at L. Paul Wallace, Bennettsville, SC, 20 Aug (DBu) and 21 at L. Hickory, NC, 24 Aug (D&LM).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to increase in the Region. Along the coast the most northerly colony at Beaufort, NC, had 12+ birds 26 Nov (GH). The group of White-winged Doves at Beaufort seems to have disappeared but the species was still found five times in N. Carolina. Singles were at Ft. Fisher 3 Sep and 27 Nov (JB), Morehead City 19–22 Nov (JFu), Atlantic, *Carteret*, late Nov (*fide* JFu), Frisco 8–14 Nov (*fide* KW & PM), and Bodie I. Lighthouse 29 Nov (KW). Short-eared Owls made a good showing, with high counts of five in *Sumter*, GA, 20 Nov (GB et al.) and four at Bodie I., NC, 6 Nov (TP et al.) and an early one at Orangeburg Sod Farms 21 Sep (PW). N. Saw-whet Owls were encountered more often, with highlights being four banded at York, SC, late Nov (BHi); two banded near Halifax, NC, late Nov (FE); one found injured at Charleston, SC, 30 Nov (*fide* WP), which later died; one seen in Columbia, SC, 15 Nov (RC, CE et al.); and up to two along the Mashoes Rd., *Dare*, NC, in Nov (JL et al.). Hummingbirds seemed to be reported less frequently, although one male Black-chinned was at Richmond Hill, GA, 25 Oct (SC) and ad. male Rufous were at *Hall*, GA, early Oct (*fide* JH) and Hampstead, NC, 7 Oct (SCa).

There were three Olive-sided Flycatchers found, all in the Atlanta, GA, area (*fide* TM). *Empidonax* flycatchers were reported about normally, with maybe a few more Yellow-bellieds than usual. The best report from this group was the Alder at Kennesaw Mt., GA, 28–30 Aug (GB, JS et al., v.o.), providing one of the few documented sightings for that state. Always exciting anywhere in the southeast, an ad. female **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Jekyll I. 2 Oct (BB et al.), just one of a handful for that state. Also rare was the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** found near the Bodie I., NC, lighthouse 7 Nov (TG, DH et al.), a one-day wonder providing about the fourth report for that state. And this season's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher sighting was of one over Roswell, GA, 3 Sep (PMo). The Philadelphia Vireo migration was as strong as ever, with reports too numerous to mention. Warbling Vireos were also well-represented, with singles at Kennesaw Mt. 8–9 Sep (BZ et al.), Chattahoochee R. N.R.A., GA, 20–22 Sep, and, amazingly, three different ones on Roanoke I., NC, 12 Sep, 1 Oct, and 6 Oct (JL). A bird fitting the description of a **Cassin's Vireo** was found in n. *Greene*, GA, 24 Oct (PS); details of this potential Regional first were sent to the GA B.R.C. The swallow migration was dominated by an influx of **Cave Swallows** into the east. Our Region's sightings were of two at S.S.S. 1 Nov (SC), five–six at Sunset Beach, NC, 10 Nov (MO), and one–two Cliff/Cave types at H.B.S.P. 27 Nov (JP, GP, KB). None were identified to subspecies. Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread and some areas reported unusually high numbers, especially in Georgia. Red-breasted Nuthatches also staged a similar migration into the Region. The thrush migration, on the other hand, was uneventful and reports seemed to reflect continued diminishing numbers. An exception was the flock of 10 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in *Fairfield*, SC, 11 Sep (DB), an excellent count for that species.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration seemed to be about normal in most areas of the region. Due to the mild conditions, late warblers included a Tennessee at P.I. 7 Nov (JFu, v.o.), Magnolia at L.M. 25 Nov (GF), Blackpoll in *Wayne*, NC, 19 Nov (GH), Am. Redstart at L.M. 25 Nov (GF), Wilson's at L.M. 25 Nov (GF) and Macon, GA, 28 Nov (JA), and Yelllow-breasted Chat at L.M. 20–25 Nov (JL, GF). Orange-crowned Warblers were reported more than normal and Nashville Warblers were downright widespread, the peak one-day count being four on N. Carolina's Outer Banks 11 Sep (JL). Connecticut Warbler reports were about normal, with singles at Jordan L. 18 Sep (DS), at P.I. 2 Oct (KW et al.), near Townville, SC, 14 Oct (B&BM), and at Clemson, SC, 1 and 15 Oct (AF). Mourning Warblers were found at Charlotte, NC, 3–6 Sep (WCo, JW), Peachtree Nature Center,

Atlanta, GA, 13 Sep (EB), and Chattahoochee R. N.R.A. 22–25 Sep (EB, JC et al.). A W. Tanager was found in the Belleville area, GA, 25 Oct (*fide* JF), no doubt returning for the second year in a row.

Rare anywhere in N. Carolina, two different Am. Tree Sparrows were at P.I., at S. Pond 5–7 Nov (ST et al., m.ob.) and at N. Pond 7–8 Nov (DH et al., v.o.). Clay-colored Sparrows were found in normal numbers, the best count being four at P.I. 24 Oct (JL). Lark Sparrows were similar in occurrence; once again P.I. had the best total, with three 24 Aug (JL). Henslow's Sparrow highlights included four at Paulk's Pasture, *Glynn*, GA, 28 Nov (EB) and two at Austell Marsh, *Cobb*, GA, 11 Oct (GB et al.). Le Conte's Sparrows were reported much more than usual in all three states. The best counts were four at Santee N.W.R., SC, 25 Nov (TK) and an astounding total of 51 at the Bradley Unit of Eufaula N.W.R., GA, 21 Nov (GB et al.), a record tally for the Region of this elusive species. Lincoln's Sparrows were widespread, with reports too numerous to mention. Snow Buntings were found in small numbers, the best reports being four at C. Hatt. 13 Nov (ED et al.) and three at Oregon Inlet 5 Nov (JFu et al.). Dickcissels included three in *Bartow*, GA, 28 Aug (BZ) and singles at P.I. 11 Sep, 14 and 23 Oct (PM et al., JL), Morehead City 1 Oct (JFu), Onslow I., GA, 1 Oct (GB et al.), and Clemson 6 Oct (AF). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are now annual in the Region; this year there were many sightings. The best count was three on Jekyll I. on 11 Sep followed by a fourth in another area there on the 12th (DL)! Shiny Cowbirds continued their invasion of the Region, with two on St. Simon's I., GA, 26–31 Aug (LTh), two at Brunswick, GA, 13 Nov (B&BD), one near Darien, GA, 1 Aug (EB), and two at C. Romain N.W.R., SC, 27–28 Aug (PS).

Finches finally staged a modest movement into the Region, with Purple Finches and Pine Siskins noted in small numbers. Three Purple Finches were early in *Orange*, NC, 17 Sep (*fide* WC), as was one in *Calhoun*, SC, 21 Sep (MT). One of the most-hoped-for finches, the Com. Redpoll, was found at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, 14 Nov (BH et al.), providing one of few reports in the last couple of years. And finally, Evening Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers, mostly in N. Carolina. The best count was 12 at Jordan L. 14 Nov (RD); one at Roanoke I. on 19 Sep (JL) provided a probable record-early arrival date.

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florida

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Three hurricanes grazed the Region this fall, raising concern for its ever-increasing human population but causing little damage beyond localized flooding. *Dennis* passed by the Atlantic coast 29–30 August, as did *Floyd* on 14–15 September. *Irene* crossed the peninsula the night of 15–16 October, producing an incredible fallout two mornings later in *Volusia* and pushing Magnificent Frigatebirds, Sooty and Bridled Terns, and other species inland at several sites. A good selection of Caribbean species was found this fall, including Cuban Pewee, La Sagra's Flycatcher, Bananaquit, and Stripe-headed Tanager. But the best bird unquestionably was the Elegant Tern found at Honeymoon Island, a first for the Region and only the second east of the Mississippi River.

Abbreviations: F.D.C.P. *(Fort DeSoto County Park, Pinellas Co.)*; H.P.M. *(Hamilton Co. phosphate mines)*; H.T.B.S.R.A. *(Hugh Taylor Birch State Recreation Area, Broward Co.)*; L.A.R.A. *(Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Orange Co.—the former Zellwood muck farms)*; P.P.M. *(Polk Co. phosphate mines)*; P.P.S.P. *(Paynes Ptairie State Preserve, Alachua Co.)*; S.T.F. *(sewage treatment facility)*.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Eared Grebes were reported from Springhill Road S.T.F., *Leon*, 18 Sep–19 Oct (GM et al.), L.A.R.A. 19 Oct–12 Nov (HR et al.), Sarasota 14–15 Nov (JKo, CS), P.P.M. 27 Nov (PT, CG), with three at H.P.M. 21 Nov (RR et al.). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels seen from shore at St. Augustine 16 Oct (DG) probably were due to *Irene*; an Am. White Pelican at Curry Hammocks in the Middle Keys 10 Oct (DL et al.) was unusual. A Great Cormorant flew by Guana R. 16 Nov (NW) and 300 Anhingas were at P.P.S.P. 2 Nov (AK). *Irene*-driven Magnificent Frigatebirds were over *Highlands* 16 Oct, with 11 at Sebring (RB, CW) and five at Lorida (L&PG). An Am. Bittern at L.A.R.A. 31 Aug (HR) was early or summering. Concentrations of wading birds at P.P.S.P. in Oct were 219 Great Egrets, 125 Snowy Egrets, 150 Little Blue Herons, 400 White Ibises, and 666 Wood Storks (AK et al.), while L. Jackson, *Leon*, had 700 Great Egrets 8 Oct and 350 Wood Storks 5 Sep (GM et al.). A Great White Heron was near Fellsmere, *Indian River*, 10 Sep (SR) and a Jacksonville

sod farm hosted 4,500 Cattle Egrets 4 Oct (RCl). Inland Roseate Spoonbills were at six sites (v.o.) including one at L. Jackson 6 Oct (DHd), six at P.P.M. 19 Sep (PT, CG), and four near Fellsmere 28 Sep (SR). There were 24 Greater Flamingoes at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P., 21 Nov (JoB), but two near Loxahatchee late Aug/early Sep were not identified to species (MB et al., ph.).

A good count of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was 366 birds at L.A.R.A. 10 Aug (HR). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Pembroke Pines, *Broward*, 24 Aug (K&KS, ph.), Broadmoor Marsh, *Brevard*, 29 Nov (SR), three at L.A.R.A. 31 Aug (HR), P.P.S.P. 10 Sep (RR), six at Valrico, *Hillsborough*, 10 Nov (SG), three shot at H.P.M. 20 Nov (*fide* JKr), and 15 throughout the season in *Polk* (PT, CG). Snow Geese were well-reported, with five at Cedar Key 17 Nov (DHe), 45 at L. Jackson 22 Nov (GM et al.), 23 at P.P.S.P. 23 Nov+ (SB, BSi), 12 at L.A.R.A. 26 Nov+ (HR), and nine at Hernando Beach, *Hernando*, 26–29 Nov (CBl, BHa). A Brant in the Middle Keys 17 Oct and picked up the following day (*fide* DL) provided the Region's earliest fall report and the southernmost specimen. Waterfowl at L.A.R.A. included 222 Gadwalls, two Am. Black Ducks, 197 Mottled Ducks, 7,300 Blue-winged Teal, 4,500 Green-winged Teal, and four Buffleheads (HR). Ducks at P.P.M. 27 Nov included 3,000 N. Shovelers, 227 Gadwalls, and one White-winged Scoter (PT, CG). Other high counts of Blue-winged Teal were 1,500 each at P.P.S.P. 26 Oct (AK) and Broadmoor Marsh 29 Nov (SR). Two Cinnamon Teal were found, an imm. male at F.D.C.P. 7–11 Sep (LA et al.) and an adult male at L.A.R.A. 29 Oct–12 Nov (HR et al.). All three scoters were reported (v.o.), with 180 Blacks off Guana R. 18 Nov (NW).

RAPTORS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A raptor watch was conducted at Curry Hammocks 14 Sep–31 Oct. High daily counts of selected species were 105 Ospreys 26 Sep, 16 Mississippi Kites 5 Oct, 76 Cooper's Hawks 24 Oct, 597 Am. Kestrels 16 Oct, 72 Merlins 3 Oct, and 150 N. Harriers, 874 Sharp-shinned and 848 Broad-winged Hawks, and 158 Peregrine Falcons, all 18 Oct (DL, JMC). Counts elsewhere were 27 Swallow-tailed Kites at Lettuce Lake Park, *Hillsborough*, 13 Aug (KT), 173 N. Harriers at L.A.R.A. 26 Oct (HR), 15 Broad-winged Hawks at Sanibel I. 16 Oct (JG, CE, VM, WD), 245 Am. Kestrels, 53 Merlins, and 30 Peregrine Falcons at Nassau Sound 17 Oct (PL), and 86 Peregrines at Guana R. 8 Oct (BSt). Up to eight White-tailed Kites were seen regularly at W. Kendall (JoB), a Mississippi Kite was a great find at Disney Wilderness Preserve, *Osceola* or *Polk*, 9 Oct (BC et al.), and Tallahassee hosted a Krider's Hawk 16 Nov (BB) and a Golden Eagle 22 Oct (JC).

A Yellow Rail was seen at H.P.M. 17 Oct (KA) and two Black Rails were heard at Bayonet Pt., *Pasco*, 10 Aug (DRn). Fifteen Purple Gallinules summered at L.A.R.A., but all were gone after 19 Oct (HR). Also at L.A.R.A. were 1,245 Common Moorhens 10 Sep (HR). Florida's 182nd exotic bird species, a Black Crowned-Crane (*Balearica pavonia*) near Pembroke Pines, *Broward*, 28–31 Aug was submitted without details (*fide* DHu).

High counts of American Oystercatchers were 162 near Crystal R. 2 Sep (TR) and 200+ at Yankeetown 11 Nov (CBl). P.P.M. hosted 23 Black-necked Stilts and 350 American Avocets 27 Nov (PT, CG). Up to 13 other avocets were at L. Jackson beginning 15 Sep (DHd et al.). An Upland Sandpiper at Honeymoon I. 6 Oct (CPa, CPi, KR) was a surprise. Single Long-billed Curlews were found at Huguenot Park, Jacksonville 2–30 Aug (RCl), Honeymoon I. 13 Aug+ (LK et al.), and Three Rooker Bar, *Pinellas*, 29 Sep (PBl), with four birds at Alafia Bank, *Hillsborough*, 17 and 22 Sep (RP et al.). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Boca Raton 16 Oct (BHp, JHo) and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was photographed at Huguenot Park 1–24 Oct (RCl et al.). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Springhill Road S.T.F. 31 Oct (PC et al.), while 390 Pectoral Sandpipers were at Jacksonville 4 Oct (RCl). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from six sites (v.o.), with 26 birds at L. Jackson 15 Sep (DHd, GM, JC et al.) and one at Curry Hammocks 21 Sep (DL et al.). A Reeve was in *Palm Beach* 10 Sep (BHp, JHo) and a Red-necked Phalarope picked up from Indian Rocks Beach, *Pinellas*, 26 Aug died the following day (PM, specimen).

Franklin's Gulls were found in *Pinellas* at Dunedin 15 Oct (EK) and Redington Beach 23 Nov+ (LA et al.). Gull-billed Terns were reported widely (v.o.), with six at L. Weir, *Marion*, 15 Sep (ES), three at Curry Hammocks 21 Sep (DL et al.), and singles at Dunedin 17 Oct (RS), Green Key, *Pasco*, 29 Oct–4 Nov (KT), and Cedar Key 27 Nov (TT). High tern counts were 101 Caspians at L.A.R.A. 26 Nov (HR), 1,850 Royals at Huguenot Park 8 Aug (RCl), 554 Sandwiches at P.P.M. 21 Aug (CG), 4,000 Commons and 500 Forster's at F.D.C.P. 3 Oct (EK et al.), and 600 Blacks at the Campbell Causeway, *Pinellas*, 25 Sep (EK et al.). A Royal Tern was inland at L.A.R.A. 8 Sep (HR); three others were at P.P.M. through the season (PT, CG et al.). A Least Tern at Dunedin 16 Oct (JKi, EK et al.) was late. The prize of the season was the adult **Elegant Tern** found at Honeymoon I. by Kwater 3 Oct during the Florida Birding Festival and subsequently seen by hundreds through 22 Nov (ph. BP). This bird represented only the second verified record e. of the Mississippi R., the other being at Chincoteague N.W.R., Virginia, in 1985. A Bridled Tern at Huguenot Park 17 Oct (RCl) was courtesy of *Irene*, while *Floyd* drove Sooty Terns inland on 15 Sep to P.P.S.P. (3 birds; JHi, MMa, HA) and L. Weir (20 birds; ES).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves continue to increase throughout (v.o.), with a surprising 23 at Trenton, *Gilchrist*, 3 Oct+ (JS, RR et al.). One field at P.P.M. contained 1,500 Mourning Doves 21 Aug (CG). Of the 300 *Amazona* parrots estimated at the Ft. Lauderdale roost 23 Oct were 159 Red-crowneds, "dozens" of Orange-wingeds, single Yellow-headed and Yellow-naped, and many not identified specifically (SE). St. George I., *Franklin*, hosted one Black-billed and 40 Yellow-billed Cuckoos 30 Sep (JC), with other Black-billeds at Spanish River Park, *Palm Beach*, 6 Sep (BHp, JHo), L.A.R.A. 30 Sep (HR), and P.P.S.P. 27 Oct (RR). A Short-eared Owl at Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola*, 3 Aug (TDe) was extremely early and may have been a West Indian bird. Others at L.A.R.A. 23 Oct+ (HR), three at L. Jackson 22 Nov+ (G&SH, JC et al.), and five at W. Kendall 24 Nov+ (JoB et al.) undoubtedly were northern birds. Robinson estimated 1,510 Chimney Swifts at L.A.R.A. 2 Oct. Rufous Hummingbirds were at Ft. Myers 2–22 Nov (LA, AS et al.) and St. Marks N.W.R. 27–28 Nov (RS et al.); a *Selasphorus* at Jacksonville 16–24 Oct (NW) and two at Gainesville 22 Nov+ (BR) were not identified to species.

During a fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct, 52 E. Wood-Pewees and 15 *Empidonax* flycatchers were counted (LA, MWi, CBu). A **Cuban Pewee,** the fifth North American report, was in *Palm Beach* 29 Oct–2 Nov (J&TG et al., v.t. BHp). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Tallahassee 22–23 Sep (DHd, JC et al.), *Broward* 3–4 Oct (BHp et al.), and Saddle Creek CP, *Polk*, 10 Oct (CG, PT et al.), and an Acadian Flycatcher was calling at H.T.B.S.R.A. 27 Sep (WG et al.). L.A.R.A. hosted 107 E. Phoebes 29 Oct and a Vermilion Flycatcher 19 Oct (HR). Another Vermilion was at Micanopy 2 Nov+ (PBu et al.). All four of Florida's *Myiarchus*

were found this fall, with a **La Sagra's Flycatcher** at Spanish River Park 18 Oct (BHp, JHo), an Ash-throated at Tallahassee 10 Nov (JC et al.), and Brown-crested at Everglades N.P. 23 Oct (JoB et al.). **Tropical Kingbirds** were identified at H.T.B.S.R.A. 11 Oct (WG, SE, LT, photos) and Miami 24 Oct (MWh, DWr et al.), while 200 E. Kingbirds moved through F.D.C.P. 7 Sep (LA et al.). Hintermister had good counts of Gray Kingbirds, with 15 at Cedar Key 23 Aug and 14 at Merritt I. 28 Aug.

Bell's Vireos appeared at Spanish River Park 10 Oct (BHp) and John Lloyd Recreation Area, *Broward*, 19–20 Oct (WG, SE, JDi). Nineteen Philadelphia Vireos were reported (v.o.), including three at Spanish River Park 10 Oct (BHp et al.). A Horned Lark was heard calling over Huguenot Park 23 Oct (NW). Swallows at L.A.R.A. included 29 Bank Swallows 6 Sep and 832 Barn Swallows 20 Aug (HR). At W. Kendall, Boyd saw 300 Cliff Swallows 1 Aug and 50 Cave Swallows 6 Aug, and a late Purple Martin was in *Polk* 13 Nov (PT). The only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported were singles at O'Leno SP, *Columbia*, 14 Nov (MMe, LD) and Gainesville 20 Nov (AK). Brown Creepers were at Cedar Key 24 Oct (DHe), San Felasco Hammock 24 Oct (LD), and Tallahassee 19 Nov (DHd). Weedy fields at L.A.R.A. attracted large numbers of wrens 26 Nov: 210 House, 49 Sedge, and 41 Marsh (HR) in only a small portion of surveyed area. A House Wren at L. Marion, *Polk*, 22 Aug (CG) tied the Region's earliest fall arrival, while a Winter Wren at Gainesville 20 Nov (MMa) was at the s. edge of its range. Golden-crowned Kinglets invaded the Region this fall, with 12 reports of one to five birds each (v.o.). Surprisingly, four reports were in *Pinellas* (RS et al.). Eighteen Veeries were at Sawgrass L., *Pinellas*, 18 Sep (MWi).

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In part due to the tropical storm activity, this was an excellent season for migrant warblers. Blue-winged Warblers were reported in good numbers, with eight at Newnans L. 4 Sep (JHi), 10 at P.P.S.P. 18 Sep (AK et al.), and nine at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA et al.). Likewise for Golden-wingeds, with seasonal counts of 12 in *Alachua* (RR et al.) and 25 in *Pinellas* (*fide* RS); five of these were at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA, MWi CBu). *Vermivora* hybrids were Brewster's Warblers at H.T.B.S.R.A. 18–22 Sep (*fide* WG), Fort Lauderdale 18 Sep (WG), and in *Leon* 30 Sep (JL), and a Lawrence's Warbler at Jacksonville 2 Oct (NW). Warblers seen during the fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct included 63 Tennessee Warblers, 64 N. Parulas, 28 Chestnut-sided, 17 Black-throated Blue, and 870 Palm Warblers, and 195 Am. Redstarts (LA, MWi, CBu). Another Tennessee at Ft. Myers 11 Nov (DWa, LS, CE) was late or wintering. Nashville Warblers were at Jacksonville 9 Sep (NW), Tallahassee 10 Sep, 7 Oct, and 9 Oct (*fide* GM), Spanish River Park 18 Sep (BHp, DRs), H.T.B.S.R.A. 11–13 Oct (WG, AE), and two birds at F.D.C.P. 23 Sep (LA). Fifty-seven Yellow Warblers at L.A.R.A. 25 Aug (HR) was one of the Region's highest fall counts.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen in "above-average numbers" at H.T.B.S.R.A. this fall, including five birds 18 Sep (WG et al.). Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers were reported widely in the peninsula (v.o) and 30 Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Saddle Creek 16 Oct (CG et al.). There were 17 Magnolia Warblers at P.P.S.P. (AK) and eight at Sanibel I. (CE, TDo et al.), both on 18 Sep. "Hundreds" of Blackburnian Warblers were in *Pinellas* this fall, with 50+ at Sawgrass L. 8 Sep (RS, MWi) and 25 others there 18 Sep (J&LH). Two other Blackburnians were at L.A.R.A. 2 Oct, as were 13 Prairie Warblers 17 Sep (HR). Twenty Cerulean Warblers were seen (v.o.), including one at Colohatchee Park, *Broward*, 19 Aug (WG) and three at Sawgrass L. 7–9 Sep (BHm et al.). At Gainesville, a male Am. Redstart seemed to be wintering in the yard where one wintered the previous two years (MMa). Eight Worm-eating Warblers were at F.D.C.P. 8 Sep (JeB). Swainson's Warblers were numerous, with three at Bonner Park 6 Sep (PBl, JF), singles at H.T.B.S.R.A. 11 Sep, 22 Sep, 26 Sep, 6 Oct, and 16 Oct (*fide* WG), six at Cape Florida, *Miami-Dade*, 25 Sep (JoB, LM), and one at Largo, *Pinellas*, 10 Oct (JF). Spanish River Park hosted Mourning Warblers 18 Sep (BHp, DRs) and 1 Oct (BHp). Canada Warblers were at Newnans L. 13 Aug (LM, RR), P.P.S.P. 31 Aug (RR) and 27 Sep (MG, BC et al.), Columbia City, *Columbia*, 28 Aug (JKr), Crawfordville, *Wakulla*, 1 Sep (RCh), F.D.C.P. 7 Sep (LA), Bonner Park, *Pinellas*, 8 Sep (JF), Spanish River Park 19 Sep (BHp, JHo et al.) and 1 Oct (BHp), and in *Okeechobee* 4 Oct (SR). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were reported at Spanish River Park 18 Sep (BHp, DRs), Seminole, *Pinellas*, 1 Oct (JF), H.T.B.S.R.A. 4 Oct (WG), and Everglades NP 21 Nov (JoB).

A **Bananaquit** at H.T.B.S.R.A. 28 Sep through the season (WG et al.) represented the Region's first acceptable fall report. The fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct brought 41 Summer and 25 Scarlet Tanagers (LA, MWi, CBu). A W. Tanager was there 27 Sep (LA et al.) and another was at Cedar Key 17 Nov (DHe). Rounding out the family was a male **Stripe-headed Tanager** at Miami 29–30 Sep (CM, LM et al.). A Bachman's Sparrow at H.T.B.S.R.A. 25–27 Sep was the first *Broward* report in over 20 years (WG). Clay-colored Sparrows were well-reported, with birds at Bald Pt., *Franklin*, 7 Sep (JDo), Spanish River Park 1 Oct (BHp), P.P.S.P. 2–5 Oct (PPk, RR, JHi), Guana River 3 Oct (RR), H.T.B.S.R.A. 7 Oct (WG, SE, FJ), and Everglades NP 23 Oct (*fide* JoB). Lark Sparrows were also nicely represented, with birds at L.A.R.A. 18 Aug and 30 Sep–6 Oct (HR), H.T.B.S.R.A. 8 Sep (WG, A&MS), Guana R. 22 Sep and 16 Oct (PPl), and Homestead 23 Oct (*fide* JoB). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Tallahassee 23 Sep (GM) and a well-described Henslow's Sparrow at W. Kendall 28 Oct (JoB) represented the Region's southernmost report. A Le Conte's Sparrow was at P.P.S.P. 6 Nov (MG), four were at H.P.M. 19–21 Nov (JKr, GH et al.), and two were at L. Jackson 26–27 Nov (GM, DHd et al.). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was inland at Tallahassee 19 Oct (GM). A Dark-eyed Junco was wintering at Gainesville 20 Nov+ (DB).

A female Snow Bunting graced Guana River 11–21 Nov (PD), 17 Blue Grosbeaks

SA On 17 October, two mornings after the passage of Hurricane *Irene*, Cindy and Kurt Radamaker witnessed what may have been the most spectacular fallout reported in Florida. At Canaveral N.S., *Volusia*, from dawn to 1100, they watched 100–200 birds per minute fly in from over the ocean and head *north*. In all, they estimated that hundreds of thousands of birds passed by, with the wave extending for miles along the coast. About 70% were Palm Warblers, with Blackpoll and Cape May Warblers and Common Yellowthroats also abundant. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Gray Catbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Am. Redstarts were observed in lesser numbers. Fifty Merlins were seen, nearly every one with a warbler in its talons. At noon, the Radamakers visited Smyrna Dunes Park, where they photographed a **Kirtland's Warbler,** only the second verifiable record for Florida, the first being an 1896 specimen (there are ±15 sight reports).

were part of the fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA, MWi, CBu), and Robinson counted 25 Indigo Buntings at L.A.R.A. 19 Oct. Over 3,000 Bobolinks were in agricultural fields at W. Kendall 11 Sep (JoB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Sanibel I. 12 Sep (VM, CE), P.P.M. 19 Sep (PT, CG), Naples 24-25 Sep (EP), Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, JP), and three were at Gainesville 8–10 Oct (RR). Shiny Cowbird reports were of two at Cedar Key 9 Aug (DHe), a female at H.P.M. on the late date of 20 Nov (BB, BaP), and 12 at Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, JP). Multiple Baltimore Orioles included eight at Crystal River 6 Sep (TR), 17 at "Ding" Darling N.W.R. 6 Sep (JeB, CE, AS), four at Honeymoon I. 10 Sep (PBl), three at L.A.R.A. 23 Sep (HR), and four at Turkey Creek 7 Oct (B&SH). A male Bullock's Oriole was reported from Cedar Key 22–26 Oct (DHe et al.). House Finches continue to increase in range and numbers in the Region, as evidenced by 180 in *Alachua* 18 Sep (*fide* MMa), two at Spring Hill, *Hernando*, 7–8 Nov (SC, AH, BHa), and one at Cedar Key 18–23 Nov (DHe).

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ontario

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It was a lovely, long, leisurely fall season. The south was warm and dry throughout, while in the northwest it was also mild, with much rain in August but drier than usual later; November in Rainy River was the mildest on record. All the promised hurricanes in North America remained coastal, so no storm-driven pelagic species were recorded. Hawk migration was excellent in the south, with several species, including Golden Eagle, in record numbers. Otherwise, birding was uneventful for most of the season until a sudden, welcome influx of rarities in November.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. *(Long Point Bird Observatory)*; P.E.Pt. *(Prince Edward Point)*; T.C.B.O. *(Thunder Cape Bird Observatory)*. Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Five definitive basic Red-throated Loons at Radiant L. 18 Nov (CJo, RSt, DTz, RGT) were only the second for Algonquin P.P. Three hundred Com. Loons were off Pt. Pelee 5 Nov (KML et al.). A severe botulism outbreak on L. Huron killed three Red-throated Loons, 1,000 Common Loons, five Horned Grebes, three Red-necked Grebes, and many ducks, especially mergansers, between Kettle Pt. and Bayfield mid-Nov (*fide* AHR). The 243 Pied-billed Grebes in Rondeau Bay, *Kent*, 1 Oct (JTB, KJB) were a record high. A high number for the N. Bay area were 25 Horned Grebes off Jocko Pt., L. Nipissing, mid-Oct (RT). Two pairs of Red-necked Grebes in Bronte Harbour, *Halton* had seven young 8 Aug, with some eggs still unhatched (MG). Eared Grebes included one at Sheguiandah, Manitoulin I. 7 Aug (E&GG), one at LaSalle Marina, Aldershott, *Halton* 17 Aug (RZD, m.ob.), two off Burlington 28 Aug (KML, m.ob.), one at Pt. Pelee 20 Sep (AW), and one at Rondeau P.P. 9–30 Nov (AHR et al.).

Thunder Bay had a record high count of Am. White Pelicans, with 300+ at W. Bay, L. Nipigon, 19 Aug (RSw); in the s., one at Erie Beach, *Kent* 18 Oct (JTB) was noteworthy. Indicative of the huge influx of recent years, 2,500 Double-crested Cormorants were on Sandy I., L. Nipissing, 20 Aug (RT). Up to six Great Egrets continued at Presqu'ile P.P. through Aug to early Sep, with two still there late Sep (*fide* MRg). Six frequented a wetland near Napanee, *Lennox-Addington* 10–17 Sep (ST, AT) and 131 were in the Holiday Beach area, *Essex*, 18 Aug (FU). Numbers at Luther Marsh, *Wellington-Dufferin* peaked at 43 on 14 Sep (HB); a late bird lingered near Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* 25 Oct–7 Nov (*fide* RK). Snowy Egrets were at Napanee 10 Sep (ST, AT) and Niagara-on-the-Lake 8–14 Nov (RHC et al.). Cattle Egrets included one near Westport, *Leeds-Granville* 7 Sep (NLB) and one at Ottawa 31 Oct (TB); three appeared in the Thunder Bay area after two days of record high temperatures, at Chippewa 9 Nov (*fide* AH), the Chapple golf club 9 Nov (DMK), and the Thunder Bay airport 10 Nov (BR). Another was at Massey, *Sudbury*, 21 Nov (CBl). Single *Plegadis* ibis were at Presqu'ile P.P. 12 Sep (RPa) and Long Pt. Causeway 28 Nov (MC, LN). A **Black Vulture** flew over the Dundas Valley, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 3 Nov (BD). Migrating Turkey Vulture numbers were high, with record one-day counts of 2,161 at Seacliff, *Essex*, 6 Oct (AW, KML)

and 1,418 at Rondeau P.P. 7 Oct (JTB); the season total at Holiday Beach was 16,957 (*fide* BL).

GEESE THROUGH RAPTORS

Greater White-fronted Geese included four flying over T.C.B.O. 19 Sep (*fide* NGE) and two over Old Cut, Long Pt., 11 Nov (HV). An imm. **Ross's Goose** frequented the Thunder Bay waterfront 1–19 Sep (DBs et al.), up to four were on Mission I., *Thunder Bay*, 12 Sep (GGo), another was at the Winchester lagoons, *Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry*, 30 Oct (BB), and an ad. was seen by many at Humber Bay Pk., *Toronto*, 5–30 Nov (*fide* RBHS). An unusual breeding record for Toronto was provided by a female Canvasback with seven young at the Leslie St. Spit 2 Aug (VH, HD); one juv. remained to 10 Oct (GC et al.). Greater Scaup numbers built to 50,000 at Wolfe I., *Frontenac*, 14 Nov (JHE, RoDW) and over 35,000 at Rondeau 28 Nov (JTB). A female King Eider frequented Cobourg Harbour, *Northumberland*, 11–30 Nov (CEG, m.ob.). Two male Harlequin Ducks were at Sault Ste. Marie 6–7 Nov (*fide* RK). Very unusual for Algonquin P.P. were 50 Black Scoters on White Partridge L. 20 Oct (GB); the Ottawa R. had 70 on 24 Oct (MTt). The peak count of Long-tailed Ducks at P.E.Pt. was 75,200 on 7 Nov (K.F.N.); the vocal 11,242 at Humber Bay Pk. 21 Nov (GC) made it sound more like spring than late fall. Two male Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Lemieux I., *Ottawa-Carleton*, 11–28 Nov (CL et al.). Hooded Mergansers were in good numbers, with a flock of over 100 at Talon L. 19 Nov (RT) most unusual for N. Bay and 82 at the Leslie St. Spit, *Toronto*, 21 Nov (RBHS) was a record for that location. The 1,320 Ruddy Ducks at Big Creek Marsh, Holiday Beach, 10 Nov were a record high count (*fide* BL).

The 43 Bald Eagles at the Atikokan town dump 24 Oct (DHE) were usual for fall. Over 1,000 Broad-winged Hawks at Thunder Cape set a one-day record at T.C.B.O. 15 Sep (*fide* NGE), as did 4,802 at High Park, *Toronto*, 17 Sep (*fide* RBHS); the season total at Holiday Beach was 59,442 (*fide* BL). Unprecedented sightings of **Swainson's Hawks** began with a juv. at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 3 Oct (MBo et al.), followed by an ad and two juv., a high count for Ontario, at Seacliff, *Essex*, 6 Oct (AW, KML), and one over Waupoos Pen., *Prince Edward*, 7 Nov (K.F.N.). A Harlan's Hawk was unusual at T.C.B.O. 15 Sep. A strong cold front there 23 Oct brought a record 223 Rough-legged Hawks (*fide* NGE). An early Golden Eagle was n. of Napanee 15 Aug (*fide* JHE). The species' passage through the south was exceptional: Rondeau tallied 11 on 7 Oct (KJB, JTB, SC); High Park, *Toronto*, had a record 11 on 18 Oct, with 12 on 24 Oct and 11 near Woodbine Beach, *Toronto*, the same day (DP). Hawk Cliff, *Elgin*, had more than 40 from 24–25 Oct (*fide* MS), while Holiday Beach, *Essex* had 34 birds 27 Oct, 24 more 7 Nov (*fide* MS), and 130 for the season. Urban Peregrine Falcons suffered a high attrition rate due to accidents, but one youngster in London, *Middlesex*, had shotgun pellets in its head (*fide* ID).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Sharp-tailed Grouse 30 km n. of Atikokan 14 Nov (DHE) was a rare fall visitor to the e. edge of *Rainy River*. A N. Bobwhite egg was identified in a small Conservation Area in London in Oct and the bird itself was found 7 Nov (*fide* PR), evidence of renewed breeding in the area. Am. Coots were plentiful, with 250 at Cache Bay, L. Nipissing mid-Oct a large number for the area (RT); in the s., Erieau, *Kent* had over 4,500 on 18 Nov (JTB). Sandhill Crane migration was excellent, with numbers building in *Algoma* from 207 on 15 Aug to a record 1,905 on 19 Sep (RK); Manitoulin I. had a record 1,700 birds 17 Oct (CBl, JLm et al.), and 57 were at Holiday Beach 7 Nov (*fide* BL) and 51 in the Long Pt. area 29 Nov (S&CW). A **Piping Plover** banded at Michigan's Whitefish Pt. was at Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 12–13 Sep (JG, VG, m.ob.) and nearby Hamilton Beachstrip 14 Sep (DD) and 16 Sep (WL). Single Am. Avocets were at Long Pt. 17 Aug (CJa), Corner Marsh, *Durham*, 29 Aug–25 Sep (DWo, m.ob.), Pt. Pelee 23 Sep (MTy et al.), and Mission Bay, *Thunder Bay*, 17–19 Oct (NGE, m.ob.). At least six Willets were in the s. late Aug–early Oct, all single birds, but four were together on Pelee I., *Essex*, 2 Oct (DWa, DBr). Hudsonian Godwits were in ones and twos across the south, with four at Cootes Paradise, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 22–23 Sep (RW, BW); the latest was at the Long Pt. Causeway 6 Nov (HV). A juv. Marbled Godwit was at Hamilton's Windermere Basin 22 Aug–16 Sep (JO et al.), another at Blenheim Lagoons 3–5 Sep (PP et al.), and a third at the Long Pt. Causeway 11 Sep (HV). Single W. Sandpipers were at Parkhill Lagoons, *Middlesex*, 29 Aug (TH, BHy), Bismark, *Niagara*, 6 Sep (KR, JB et al.), Blenheim Lagoons 8 Sep (RHC et al.), Presqu'ile P.P. 1 Oct (DSh, IS), Long Pt. Causeway 17 Oct (PB), and Amherst I. 21 and 25 Sep and 15 Oct (K.F.N.). Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*, had 20 White-rumped Sandpipers 4 Oct (AW), but elsewhere numbers were low. Baird's Sandpipers, however, had a strong fall passage. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was closely studied by several birders, but not photographed, 19 Oct on Mission I. (GGo, SG et al.). An early Purple Sandpiper was at Cobourg Harbour 1 Oct (MJCB), with a high count of seven at Presqu'ile P.P. 7 Nov (DSh, IS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely reported in the s., with high counts of six at Gore Bay airport, *Manitoulin*, 13 Sep (RZD, BCh) and three at Mt. Hope, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 25 Aug–5 Sep (JO, RSm). A **Ruff** was at Blenheim Lagoons 8 Sep (RHC et al.), with another at the Long Pt. Causeway 26 Sep–17 Oct (DGa, m.ob.). Long-billed Dowitchers included two early ad. at Oshawa Second Marsh 12 Aug (JI), 10 from 4 Sep–26 Oct in the Kingston area (K.F.N.), a juv. at Mission I. 19 Sep (JAl, JAn, NGE), two at the Long Pt. Causeway 10 Oct (m.ob.), and three at Oshawa Second Marsh 16 Oct (RPy). Red-necked Phalaropes were well reported, with a high of three at Hearst, *Cochrane*, 12 Sep (BDL). Ten Red Phalaropes were more than the seasonal average and included two at Ottawa 24 Oct (MTt) and one at T.C.B.O. 22 Oct (*fide* NGE), a first for *Thunder Bay*.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Hamilton's Van Wagners Beach saw excellent numbers of Pomarine Jaegers, from the first on 26 Sep (KML) to an amazing 13 juvs. 11 Nov (RZD, JC), for a total of 29 birds. Parasitic Jaegers were not exceptional at this site, but Presqu'ile P.P. had an unusually high seasonal total of at least 16 (*fide* DSh); Long Point Breakwater had two on 17 Sep (MO) and one 19 Sep (MO, HV), and a juv. was at Pt. Pelee 19 Sep (AW). Plowed fields in *Rainy River* held over 600 Franklin's Gulls of all plumages from juvenile to adult 2 Aug (DHE, RSi); singles were at Presqu'ile P.P. 19 Sep (KK) and Sturgeon Creek, *Essex*, 1 Oct (JK). *Thunder Bay*'s first Little Gull was at T.C.B.O. 14 Oct (HV); 17 were at Turkey Pt. 23 Oct (NM). A definitive basic Black-headed Gull provided a first fall record for Presqu'ile P.P. 7–8 Sep (GGi, DSh, RGT). An ad. and three imm. Bonaparte's Gulls at Nym L. e. of Atikokan 12 Aug (DRE) were a rare fall sight for *Rainy River*. Although persisting in many locations in the s. of the province through Nov, there were no large concentrations of Bonaparte's on the Niagara R., where gull numbers in general remained low, presumably due to continuing mild weather.

The seven Ring-billed Gulls at Atikokan 20 Nov were record-late for the area (DHE). An ad. California Gull frequented river

SA The sensation of the fall was undoubtedly Ontario's first **Heermann's Gull.** In early November, reports of a small dark gull in the Toronto docklands were initially discounted as a bird badly oiled or perhaps melanistic. On 14 Nov a first-winter Heermann's Gull was identified there (BM), only to disappear until 28 Nov, when refound at nearby Ashbridge's Bay (TR et al.). Photographs of it at the Cherry St. Shipping Canal 29 Nov (CML, BY) opened the floodgates, and many appreciative birders thronged to view this first for Ontario. Workers at the salt storage facility frequented by the bird claimed it had been present since the summer. Although this statement was received with some skepticism, it may mirror dates for the only other Heermann's for eastern North America: a third-year come adult at Metro Beach Metropark, Michigan, Aug 1979–Nov 1981 (*fide* AC), with presumably the same bird at Lorain, Ohio, 12 Feb–12 Mar 1980 and 20 Dec 1980–Feb 1981 (*fide* VF).

Not to be outdone by its West Coast brethren, the Elegant Tern in Florida, this Heermann's Gull in Basic I plumage also provided a second record for eastern North America. It remained in Toronto, Ontario, from 14 Nov 1999 well into December, with this image taken 1 Dec. Photograph/Kayo Roy

rocks beside Adam Beck Generating Station on the Niagara R. 7–27 Nov (WDA, BP, m.ob.) and a second was at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (WDA, BP). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbers were low but nine were at Niagara Falls 28 Nov (MM, KF). In the s., "white-winged" gulls remained scarce through the period. Black-legged Kittiwakes included one at Presqu'ile P.P. 9 Sep (RGT), two juvs. at Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 12 Sep (KML), and singles at Amherst I. 26 Oct (RKE, KFE), Erieau 10 Nov (SC, JTB), and Van Wagners Beach 11 Nov (RZD, JC). Van Wagners Beach also had a juv. Sabine's Gull 3 Oct (DGa, BSm et al.). A Caspian Tern was record-late for Rondeau 26 Oct (JTB). The 11,000 Com. Terns at Pt. Pelee 4 Oct provided an exceptional count for the late date (RHC et al.). A late Forster's Tern was at Niagara Falls 6 Nov (WDA).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Rare for fall was a Mourning Dove at Atikokan 15 Oct (DHE). A red-morph E. Screech-Owl was banded at L.P.B.O. 14 Oct (*fide* JW). In Toronto 23 Oct were 15 Short-eared Owls on Leslie St. Spit (MCr) and eight at Col. Sam Smith Pk. (AR) migrating w. along the shoreline in broad daylight, some far out over water; two at Two Rivers Airfield 30 Oct (*fide* RGT) were rare for Algonquin P.P. There was an excellent flight of N. Saw-whet Owls, with record numbers at several banding stations, including 600+ at T.C.B.O. (*fide* NGE) and 766 at L.P.B.O. (*fide* JW). The fourth **Lewis's Woodpecker** for Ontario, a spectacular adult, delighted many birders 1–7 Oct w. of Brockville, *Leeds-Granville* (V&LW, m.ob.). Northerly Red-bellied Woodpeckers included one banded at T.C.B.O. 28 Oct (*fide* NGE) and 2 at Evansville, Manitoulin I. 7 Nov (CBl). An intriguing sighting 16 Oct was a Williamson's Sapsucker flying northeast from Taconite Harbour, Minnesota, toward nearby Ontario, where the species is unrecorded (*fide* NGE). At least 20 Black-backed Woodpeckers were in a forest burn s. of Temagami mid-Oct (BDL). T.C.B.O. had three Western Kingbirds 19 Sep (*fide* NGE). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher flew w. at Derry Rd., *Halton*, 25 Aug (DTb). A late, unbanded adult Loggerhead Shrike was at Corner Marsh, *Durham*, 6 Oct (GC).

The southbound Blue Jay flight was spectacular, with 121,000 over Holiday Beach 15 Sep (*fide* BL) and 37,120 in four hours at Seacliff 3 Oct (AW et al.). Seacliff, *Essex* had a good passage of 725 Tree Swallows in four hours 3 Oct (AW et al.).

Good numbers of Boreal Chickadees migrated along the n. shore of L. Superior in Oct (*fide* NGE); one with no tail was much farther s. at Presqu'ile P.P. 24 Oct (DMR, MRb). A Tufted Titmouse was n. to Ottawa 5–19 Nov (CBw et al.), with others at feeders in St. Marys, *Perth*, 26 Nov (CD) and N. York, *Toronto*, 26–30 Nov (SP). Unusual in the north, a White-breasted Nuthatch visited feeders at Marathon, *Thunder Bay*, 31 Oct–8 Nov (BCl) and two were at Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay*, early Nov (GS). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was unexpected at Moose Factory, *Cochrane*, 15 Sep (BDL). A beautiful male Mountain Bluebird was at Fishers Glen, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 25–30 Nov (SM, m.ob.). Three Townsend's Solitaires were at Squaw Bay, *Thunder Bay*, early Nov (BR, EC); one was in London 5 Nov (B&CL) and another at Pt. Pelee 23–30 Nov (AHR et al.). Peak night flights of thrushes occurred at Kingston 8/9 Sep, with 400 Gray-cheeked and 4,500 Swainson's identified by calls (RDW). At T.C.B.O., 4,000 Am. Robins flew s. 22 Sep (*fide* NGE). Grandview Beach, *Thunder Bay*, had a N. Mockingbird 10 Oct (SB). The 24 Am. Pipits at Atikokan 17 Sep (DHE) were unexpected, usually overflying *Rainy River*; numbers on Amherst I. peaked at 750 on 25 Sep (K.F.N.), and over 10,000 moved through agricultural fields at Sault Ste. Marie ahead of a cold front 2 Oct (RK). Small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared in *Rainy River* 15 Oct (DHE), Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct (RGT), *Sudbury* 30 Oct (JLe), and farther s. in early Nov. The berry crop was good n. of L. Superior but poor in the s., where few flocks remained for long.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warbler migration was diffuse and protracted, lacking notable concentrations. A Yellow Warbler was record-late for Rondeau P.P. 27–28 Nov (SC, JTB). Ottawa had a Yellow-throated Warbler 16–23 Oct (CR et al.) and another was at Long Pt. 4 Nov (CJa). A N. Waterthrush was late in Hamilton 7 Nov (GN). Usually elusive on migration, 13 Connecticut Warblers were recorded at Long Pt., with four at the tip 28 Aug (*fide* JW). Unusual for fall, a male Hooded Warbler was at Pelee 8 Oct (JMC,BHm) and a late bird was at Centre I., *Toronto*, 30 Oct (AA et al.). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were unexpected at Peterborough 26 Aug (BS) and P.E.Pt. 18 Sep (RTS). A female

Summer Tanager was seen briefly in Port Hope, *Northumberland*, 19 Oct (EK) and an imm. male was a first for Sudbury 24–26 Oct (EG, CBl, JLe).

An E. Towhee visited Marathon 10 Nov (CV, PC). A Field Sparrow at Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct (AB, DG) was rare there and record-late. A Lark Sparrow was at P.E.Pt. 12 Sep (RDW). The only Henslow's Sparrow report was from Rondeau 10 Oct (KJB). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at the traditional long-grass site at Two Rivers Airfield in Algonquin P.P. 7–9 Oct (CJo et al.) and Rondeau 11 Oct (KJB). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were sparse at usual migration spots. Hundreds of Snow Buntings moved through the Atikokan area 19–30 Oct (DHE), a major movement unlike anything seen there before. N. Cardinals continued their expansion in *Thunder Bay*, with four at Marathon 2–8 Nov (BCl) and singles at Pine Bay 8 Nov (S&BI) and Rossport 12 Nov (DSp). Atikokan had its third, a male 10 Nov (DHE). A Dickcissel was banded at T.C.B.O. 19 Sep; another was seen but not banded 2 Oct (*fide* NGE). There was a heavy flight of Pine Siskins through s. Ontario in Oct but birds did not stay. Com. Redpolls arrived early in n. areas; hundreds were in Atikokan 16 Oct (*fide* DHE). A Hoary Redpoll was at a feeder with Com. Redpolls at Hanmer, *Sudbury*, 18 Nov (CBl, CW).

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SA The big excitement was the unprecedented influx of **Cave Swallows** into s. Ontario in early Nov after a strong low-pressure system with sw. winds came up from the Gulf of Mexico, followed by a strong cold front sweeping in from the west. Ontario had two previous records of Cave Swallows, both singles at Pt. Pelee, the first 21 Apr 1998 (AW) and the second 7–9 Dec 1998 (AW et al.). At Pt. Pelee, 2 Nov brought five to the Visitor Center and W. Beach at Pt. Pelee (KML), followed the next day by 25 flying s. off the tip in the morning (KML) and three there in the afternoon (KML et al.). Also 3 Nov, two were at nearby Sturgeon Creek (GTH) and four were at Long Pt. (IR). Also at Pelee, two roosted in a Barn Swallow nest at the Visitor Centre 3–4 Nov (GTH et al.)—one died and will go to the Royal Ontario Museum—three birds were at the Marsh Tower and Sanctuary Pond 4–5 Nov (MBk et al.), and two were flying s. off the tip 5 Nov (KML, WGW, HW, MTt). Meanwhile, L.P.B.O. reported up to 25 at Old Cut and 13 at the tip 4 Nov (*fide* JW), for a total of at least 44 seen 3–10 Nov (*fide* JW). Rondeau P.P. recorded its first, with three at Erie Beach 3 Nov (JTB) and six at Erieau 4–6 Nov (SC et al.). Port Burwell, *Elgin*, had one 5 Nov (DM et al.) and L. Huron had one at Gallimere Beach, *Lambton*, 6 Nov (JLs, CO). This tidal wave of Cave Swallows swept on through Quebec and the northeastern states to the Eastern Seaboard.

appalachia

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Dry, summer-like conditions extended over the entire Region through August and into September, during which time there were few notable fallouts of migrants. Heavy rains associated with hurricanes *Dennis* and *Floyd* skirted the eastern edge of the Region, followed by good waves of passerines in the West Virginia mountains. Heavy rainfall during the long Thanksgiving weekend produced a good fallout of waterfowl in western Maryland and Pennsylvania. Otherwise the season was marked by generally weak cold fronts. Nearly every contributor summarized the migration as being just average—the Regional editor concurs.

Quantitative data generated by the Region's two large, long-term bird-banding sta-

tions support this impression. At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, *Grant*, West Virginia, an average 5,662 birds were banded 15 Aug–16 Oct (*fide* GH). Only two species were netted in numbers well above average (i.e., more than 2 standard deviations [SD] above average), the Philadelphia Vireo (33 banded) and Hooded Warbler (23). An average total of 6,136 birds was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve 1 Aug–30 Nov, where only the Hermit Thrush (72) and American Goldfinch (813) were two SD above average (RCL, RM).

Much attention focused on northern invaders, particularly the Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin, found early and throughout the Region and possibly would-be harbingers of a large-scale winter presence.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. *(Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV);* P.I.S.P. *(Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co, PA);* P.N.R. *(Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland Co., PA);* T.R.M.O. *(Three Rivers Mig. Obs., Raleigh and Mercer Cos., WV);* Y.C.S.P. *(Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA).*

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A highly successful waterbird count at P.I.S.P. tallied 144 Red-throated Loons 11 Oct–30 Nov (JM); the only reports away from L. Erie were of two at Pymatuning L. 31 Oct (RFL) and one at Quemahoning L., *Somerset*, PA 20–21 Nov (SBa). There were few notable counts of Com. Loons, but 18 flew down the Allegheny R. past Brady's Bend Hawk Watch, *Clarion*, PA, 15 Nov (MM) and 40 were on Pymatuning L. 31 Oct (RFL). The best Pied-billed Grebe count was 81 at Y.C.S.P. 12 Oct (SK). A Red-necked Grebe was on Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, 7 Nov (GE); in *Somerset*, PA one was at Quemahoning L. 24 Nov (*fide* TF) and two near Mt. Davis in late Oct (JT). Two Eared Grebes were at P.I.S.P., where now nearly annual, 15–25 Nov (JM, JHo) and at least two were at S. Holston L., TN, where they have been found for six consecutive years (*fide* RKn).

An Am. White Pelican was at Greenlick Dam, *Fayette*, PA, 7 Nov (SRG, MEW). Double-crested Cormorants continue to be increasingly common as migrants; maximum counts were 130 at Donegal L., *Westmoreland*, PA, 24 Oct (DSm) and 286 at Pymatuning L. 6 Nov (RFL). Although Great Egrets were widespread, most northerly reports were of single birds, an exception being nine at Mosquito L, *Trumbull*, OH, 4 Sep (DH). An ad. Little Blue Heron was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 16 Aug (JG). Single Cattle Egrets were reported from near Morgantown, WV, 22–27 Nov (*fide* GB) and Plain Grove, *Lawrence*, PA, 14 Nov (BD, CG). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was in Erie 10 Aug (DBo), two were in *Mahoning*, OH, 29 Sep (NB), and one was at Sandy Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV (JE, NO) 17 Nov.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A convincing report was received of 97 **Greater White-fronted Geese** flying low over Y.C.S.P. 6 Nov (SGr, DJ, *fide* MH), a total unprecedented for the Region! Sightings of singles near Bristol, TN, on three dates in Nov may have represented more than one bird (RKn). Snow Geese were widely reported; better counts included 15 at Peters Mt., *Monroe*, WV, 14 Nov (JPh), 440 at Soddy Mt. Hawk Watch (WH) 14 Nov, and 300 elsewhere in *Hamilton*, TN the same date (MP). In Pennsylvania, single Ross's Geese were at Luxor, *Westmoreland*, 20–21 Oct (DL, ph. MM), Saltsburg, *Indiana*, 22–30 Nov (MDD, ph. RH), and Indian L., *Somerset*, 26 Nov (SBa). A record count of 75 Brant was at P.I.S.P. 14 Oct (JM). An unmarked Trumpeter Swan frequented L. Arthur, *Butler*, PA all season (WS, m.ob.) and two were at Big Beaver Marsh, *Beaver*, PA 29 Aug (BH). Thirteen Tundra Swans on L. Somerset, PA were early 23 Oct (AM), as were 14 at Brady's Bend Hawk Watch (MM) and 152 at Green Ridge S.F., *Allegany*, MD, 24 Oct (JC). A heavy waterfowl fallout 25 Nov included over 3,000 swans in the Laurel Highlands of sw. Pennsylvania (m.ob.).

Most contributors thought the puddle-duck migration was lackluster, but there were a few interesting counts, such as 120 Wood Ducks at Beaver Borough wetlands, *Lawrence*, PA, 4 Sep (BD), 97 Gadwall at Y.C.S.P. 26 Oct (MH) and 88 at Pymatuning 31 Oct (RFL), over 2,200 Mallards at Pymatuning 14 Aug, and 16 N. Shovelers there 23 Oct (RFL). Among divers, an early Canvasback was at P.I.S.P. from early Aug–6 Sep (JM). Sixty Redheads landed on Indian L., *Somerset*, PA, during heavy rains 25 Nov (JPa), as did 200 Greater Scaup on L. Somerset 26 Nov (AMa). An imm. male **King Eider** flew past Sunset Point 16 Nov (JM) and a female was also at P.I.S.P. 18 Nov (JHr). Over 600 Buffleheads put down on Donegal L. 25 Nov (DSm). The P.I.S.P. waterbird count for Surf Scoter was 111 from 7 Oct–30 Nov; eight were at Indian L. 24 Nov (JPa). In Maryland, one was at Rocky Gap, *Allegany*, 26–27 Nov (RKi) and three at Broadford Res., *Garret*, 5 Oct (FP). The Black Scoter count at Erie was 88 from 8 Oct–30 Nov (JM). On 25 Nov a raft of 250 Long-tailed Ducks was on L. Somerset (AMa). Com. Goldeneyes peaked at 1,200 at Pymatuning 13 Nov (RFL, IF), where there were 2,750 Hooded Mergansers 30 Oct (RFL). A raft of 2,000 Ruddy Ducks was on Greenlick Res. 25 Nov (DBy, DSm).

Hawk watchers reported some high seasonal totals for Bald Eagles, e.g. 44 at Rockfish Gap, VA (YL), 22 at Brady's Bend (MM), and 31 at Allegheny Front, *Somerset*, PA (TD). The N. Harrier flight was strong, with 118 spotted at Stone Mt, *Huntingdon*, PA (GG), 62 at Brady's Bend (MM), and 111 at Allegheny Front (TD). N. Goshawks staged a major invasion, with a record tally of 43 at Allegheny Front (TD), and 15 at Rockfish Gap (YL). A late date for an imm. Broad-winged Hawk near L. Arthur, PA (RSt) was 24 Oct. A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was an exciting find at Soddy Mt., TN, 23 Oct (WH). It was also a good fall for Rough-legged Hawks, with one as far south as *Bledso*, TN, 28 Nov (BJ). Allegheny Front's Golden Eagle total was a record 144 birds (TD); 92 passed by Stone Mt. (GG).

A first for *Erie* was a juv. **Purple Gallinule** at P.I.S.P. 14–16 Oct (RN, ph. JM). By early Nov Am. Coots peaked at 5,000 at P.I.S.P. (JM), 1,700 on L. Arthur (PH), and 1,500 at Y.C.S.P. (MH). In e. Tennessee, the first Sandhill Crane sighting was of two at Soddy Mt. 25 Oct (WH); at Hiwassee W.R. numbers reached 3,000 by season's end (KC). A lone crane was at Erie N.W.R., *Crawford*, PA, the first half of Nov (HB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

There were up to 14 Am. Golden-Plovers at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, 5–19 Sep (WF) and nine at Shenango Res., *Mercer*, PA, 12 Sep (JS). At Pymatuning the maximum Lesser Yellowlegs count was 132 on 27 Sep (RFL). A late Solitary Sandpiper was at Independence Marsh, *Lawrence*, PA, 5 Nov (BH). Single Willets were at P.I.S.P. 2 Sep (TJC) and 12 Sep (DR). A total of six Whimbrels was reported from P.I.S.P. 14 Aug–16 Sep (*fide* JM), with one at Pymatuning 7–22 Sep (JHo, m.ob.) and one at S. Holston L., TN, 30 Jul (WC, AJ). In late August one to two Marbled Godwits were at Upper Douglas L., TN (*fide* WC), where the species has been seen for three consecutive years. Single Red Knots were at P.I.S.P. 5 Sep (DBo) and Tamarack L., Meadville, PA, 6 Aug (RFL). Four White-rumped Sandpipers in a flooded grassland near Tablers Station, *Berkeley*, WV, 8 Sep provided a new county record (SM). Four Purple Sandpipers were listed on the P.I.S.P. waterbird count 12–28 Nov (JM). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at

P.I.S.P. 26 and 28–29 Aug (DS, JM), two were at Shenango Res. 6 Sep (JS), and at least 12 were at Hooper Lane 19 Sep (WF). A Long-billed Dowitcher was a rare find at Sandy Cr. Marsh, WV, 14 and 20 Aug (JE, WA). A Red Phalarope was at Y.C.S.P. 29 Aug (MH, RH) and another believed to be this species was at P.I.S.P. 28 Nov (TJC).

Up to four different Parasitic Jaegers were spotted 28 Oct–7 Nov on the P.I.S.P. waterbird count (JM, MF). A Laughing Gull at Staunton, VA, 7 Sep (YL) represented the first fall record there. Lone Franklin's Gulls appeared at P.I.S.P. 29 Oct (JM) and Shenango Res. 14–15 Aug (RSa, MM). An imm. Little Gull was at P.I.S.P. 18 Nov (JF). A **Black-headed Gull** was an unexpected find along the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks, PA, 3–21 Nov (ph. SK, MF, JHo). At Mosquito L., OH, Bonaparte's Gulls increased from 500 on 15 Nov (DH) to over 1,000 by 29 Nov (CB). Rare s. of L. Erie, three Great Black-backed Gulls were flying down the Allegheny R. past Brady's Bend 14 Nov (MM). Two Forster's Terns were near Ligonier, PA, 14 Sep (RCL), one was at Y.C.S.P. 29 Sep (MH), and a late bird was at P.I.S.P. 23 Oct (JM). Nineteen Black Terns were spotted at Donegal L., PA, 25 Aug (RSt), two were at New Castle 26–27 Aug (BD), and ten were at L. Somerset 25 Aug (SBa).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Dove populations continued to grow in *Hamilton*, TN, with a record count of 12 at Chattanooga 2 Oct (KC). Mourning Doves seemed increasingly abundant throughout the Region; a flock near Ligonier, PA 9 Aug contained ±500 birds (RCL). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was still in *Wood*, WV, 30 Oct (JBe). Twenty-two Short-eared Owls were reported from seven sites in Pennsylvania; one was at Hooper Lane, NC, 18 Nov (FW, BM). The N. Saw-whet Owl flight was heavy; three were banded at P.N.R. 15 Oct–6 Nov (RCL, RM) and five at A.F.M.O. 29 Aug–11 Oct (*fide* GH). Two at P.I.S.P. 29 Oct, finishing their crossing of L. Erie, were quickly surrounded by Ring-billed Gulls. Within 100 feet of land two crows also began harassing them, causing the owls to become disoriented and land exhausted on the beach. After recovering they flew into nearby woods (JM).

An organized Com. Nighthawk watch along the Allegheny R. at Pittsburgh on 25 evenings 5 Aug–6 Sep tallied 1,775 birds, including a high count of 672 on 27 Aug (SK). Late nighthawks were in Pittsburgh 20 Oct (KS) and Fishersville, *Augusta*, VA, 23 Oct (YL). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird flight was heavy: 207 were banded at P.N.R. 5 Aug–17 Sep (RCL, RM) and 92 were liberated from nets at T.R.M.O. (RC). An imm. male Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a feeder near Grantsville, MD, 4–7 Sep (ph. FP, v.o.); one was at Bluefield, *Mercer*, WV, 15 Oct–30 Nov+ (AMR) and an imm. male was at Signal Mt., *Hamilton*, TN, 29 Nov+ (JSL, banded CSI). Two additional *Selasphorus* hummingbirds (sp. as yet undetermined) appeared near Brevard, *Transylvania*, NC, 13 Oct–30 Nov (*fide* NS). A Jul–Aug survey of Red-headed Woodpeckers in one of their last strongholds in Pennsylvania revealed a "tenuous foothold" maintained in *Lawrence* and *Mercer*; 62 birds, including 16 young, were located (BD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher records came mostly from the banding stations, including 43 at P.N.R. 19 Aug–29 Sep (RCL, RM), singles at Mt. Nebo W.M.A., MD, 23 Aug and 10 Sep (CSk, FP), and four at A.F.M.O. 9 Sep–1 Oct (*fide* GH). Two Alder Flycatchers were still singing on Roan Mt., TN/NC, 4 Aug (SS). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Hooper Lane 28 Oct (v.t. WF, RSe) was not only new for *Henderson*, NC, but represented one of the few records for the Appalachians. N. Shrikes began appearing in Pennsylvania the last week of Oct, where they were widespread, with records from at least seven counties.

A **Bell's Vireo** reported 10 Aug from Barkcamp S.P., *Belmont*, OH (detailed description, MAP) provided one of few records for the entire Appalachian Region —the species nonetheless remains unconfirmed by any photographic, specimen, or multiple-observer record for the Region. Ten Yellow-throated Vireos was considered an exceptional count at Jackson Park, NC, 22 Sep (WF, RSe); a late bird was at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 31 Oct (KC). The Blue Jay flight was impressive along many mountain ridges; 18,706 were counted at A.F.M.O., peaking at 8,297 on 3 Oct (RB, GH). Good numbers of Com. Ravens were reported, including 66 flying past Peters Mt., WV, in one group 14 Nov (JPh). A Purple Martin roost at P.I.S.P. contained 100,000 birds in mid-Aug (JHi). High counts of Tree Swallows included 5,140 at Pymatuning L. Aug 14 (RFL); 3,000 were at Mosquito L., OH, 11 Oct (CB). A late date for ten N. Rough-winged Swallows at Edinboro, PA (JHi) was 9 Oct. Two late Bank Swallows were at P.I.S.P. 7 Oct (JHi). There was a minor flight of Black-capped Chickadees, with 147 banded at P.N.R.; one banded at Bristol, TN, 21 Nov was the first well-documented record for the ne. corner of the state (RLw, *fide* RKn). Nearly every contributor mentioned the abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches; surely it was one of the heaviest flights in years. A quick informal survey of Brown-headed Nuthatches in e. Tennessee (FR) located ten birds scattered over three different sites. Sedge Wrens were at Glades State Game Lands, *Butler*, PA, 4 Sep (SBu, RC) and Hooper Lane 3 Oct (WF); up to four were at Brainerd Levee, TN, 28 Sep–16 Oct (KC). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were widely reported in small numbers. A Bicknell's Thrush was banded at P.I.S.P. 4 Sep (RFL) and two were banded at T.R.M.O. 24 Sep (RC).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Opposite the usual trend in the Region, Golden-winged Warblers were "far more numerous" than Blue-wingeds this season in *Henderson*, NC, where six were found 18 Sep alone (WF, ST). A late Blue-winged Warbler was at McDonough W.R., *Wood*, WV, 26 Sep (JBe). A Brewster's Warbler was banded at P.N.R. 8 Aug (BS, RCL, RM) and one was in *Hamilton*, TN, 25 Sep (TR). A Yellow Warbler at Mill Creek Park, *Mahoning*, OH, 8 Sep (NB) was late. A total of 1,035 Black-throated Blue Warblers was banded at A.F.M.O., with 87 on 24 Sep (*fide* GH); many observers commented on their abundance this fall and a late bird was on Bald Eagle Ridge, *Centre*, PA, 30 Nov (KE). A late Yellow-throated Warbler was banded at T.R.M.O. 27 Sep (RC), and a Yellow Palm Warbler was a good find at P.N.R. 13 Oct (RCL, RM). Lingering Ovenbirds were near Berlin, *Somerset*, PA, 4 Nov (JPa) and Elizabethton, TN, 30 Nov (HL). A Louisiana Waterthrush in *Allegany*, MD, was unusually late 18 Sep (RKi).

A Summer Tanager along the Blue Ridge Parkway 19 Aug represented just the second fall record for *Augusta*, VA (YL); late birds were in *Wood*, WV, 20 Sep (SR) and at Jackson Park, NC, 25 Sep (WF, RSe). A **Western Tanager** at Natrona Heights, PA, 3 Oct (PH) represented just the second record for the Pittsburgh area. At Hooper Lane, single Clay-colored Sparrows were found 2 and 10 Oct and two were there 7 Nov (WF, ST). A Lark Sparrow was an unexpected find at Moraine S.P., PA, 24 Sep (DY, DDr, BD, RSt). Infrequently reported from the Appalachians, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed at Mutual, *Westmoreland*, PA, 9 and 21 Oct (DL, m.ob.) and Y.C.S.P. 12 Oct (MH et al) and two were at Hooper Lane 8–16 Oct (v.t. WF, m.ob.). Good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were reported; 41 were banded at P.N.R. 15 Sep–11 Oct, a total

of 19 at Mt Nebo W.M.A. (CSk, FP), 12 at T.R.M.O. 12 Sep–17 Oct and about 20 were at Hooper Lane during late Oct (WF). The White-crowned Sparrow migration was widely reported as average. There were two reports, however, by experienced observers, of imm. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows, in Butler Twsp., *Butler*, PA, 28 Oct (DY) and at Shelocta, *Indiana*, PA 14 Oct–30 Nov (MH, RH). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Natrona Heights, PA, 14 Nov (PH) and an Indigo Bunting frequented a feeder in E. Brainerd, TN, through Nov (*fide* KC). The only Dickcissel reports were of birds at McDonough W.R., WV, 4 Sep (JBe) and Brainerd Levee, TN, 21 Oct (KC).

Two Brewer's Blackbirds were at Moraine S.P., PA, 24 Oct (PH, v.o.), two were near Volant, *Lawrence*, 13 Nov (RSt), and over 20 were at Darlington, *Beaver*, 19–21 Nov (BH). Large flocks of Purple Finches passed through the n. half of the Region, especially in Oct; 525 were banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM) and 101 at Mt. Nebo W.M.A. (CSk, FP). Just a scattering remained in Pennsylvania by season's end. Four Red Crossbills were on Mt. Mitchell, NC, 5 Aug (SS, MC); in the north, the first arrival was reported at Delmont, *Westmoreland*, PA, 9 Sep (KB) and they were widely reported in small numbers by mid-Nov. At least six White-winged Crossbills were at W. Salisbury, *Somerset*, PA, 9 Nov (JPa) and like Red Crossbills, they, too, were well distributed across the state by mid-month. Flocks of up to 100 Com. Redpolls frequented P.I.S.P. by 10 Nov, and smaller numbers were seen at a few other Pennsylvania localities; one had reached *Shenandoah*, VA, by the last week of Nov (DDa). Pine Siskins staged a heavy invasion throughout the Region; an exceptional total of 706 was banded at T.R.M.O. 13 Oct–20 Nov (RC); however, only 61 were banded at P.N.R. during the same period. Flocks of "migrating" Evening Grosbeaks appeared in the n. by mid-Oct, but few lingered at feeding stations; over 20 were on Roan Mt., TN, 28 Nov (RKn).

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western great lakes

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While mild summer weather continued unabated, abundant rainfall that characterized preceding months suddenly stopped in mid-August. Most of the Region recorded little precipitation: by early December many areas were 5–10 inches below normal. Results were dramatic, especially on the Great Lakes. Levels dropped two to four feet, placing them dangerously close to record lows. For example Squaw Bay in Michigan's *Alpena* was characterized as a marshy field, while the s. end of Green Bay in Wisconsin's *Brown* became one large mudflat. Inland lakes saw similar reductions. If the upcoming winter and spring do not have ample precipitation the Region will approach summer under drought conditions, which would impact many nesting species.

Abnormally mild weather affected the waterfowl flight. Birds did not need to depart the north so many species trickled into the Region. The raptor flight was better than last fall, spectacular in a few instances, but still variable between the three states. Shorebirds were found in excellent numbers when suitable habitat was present. The thrush flight was without doubt one of the poorest on record. Most species were seen in exceptionally low numbers or totally missed. Warblers commenced migrating early, undoubtedly due to yet another early nesting season, with most exiting by mid-Sep (extremely early). A few individuals lingered, some record late. The sparrow flight also was poor. Thankfully, winter finches appeared in fair to good numbers; however, the pattern proved irregular.

What the "standard" migrants lacked the rarities had. This was an excellent season for the unexpected, resulting in quality birding in all three states. Especially gratifying was the fact that many rarities lingered, allowing many birders to enjoy them. Headliners for Minnesota were Black-headed and Glaucous-winged Gulls, Ancient Murrelet, Band-tailed Pigeon, Williamson's Sapsucker, Painted Bunting, and Great-tailed Grackle. Michigan's contributions included Black Vulture, Gyrfalcon, White-winged Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Lark Bunting, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Wisconsin birders were excited about Pacific Loon, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls, White-winged Dove, and Green-tailed and Spotted Towhees.

And last, this autumn season completes my 24th year as the summer and fall Western Great Lakes editor. I have enjoyed these years getting to "know" many of you, at least as names on state summaries and more so in many instances. However it is time to step down. A big thanks to all of you for your contributions during these years. While I am retiring from all the writing and deadlines, I am not retiring from birding. It is too much fun, so here is hoping we meet in the field. Good birding, everyone!

Abbreviations: M.W.S. *(Muskegon Wastewater System, MI);* P.M.S.G.A. *(Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI);* S.M.R.R. *(Southeast Michigan Raptor Research [includes Lake Erie Metropark and P.M.S.G.A.]);* U.M.R. *(Upper Mississippi River N.W.R., MN/WI);* WPBO *(Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI).*

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loon migration was poor at WPBO, with only 128 tallied 22 Aug–6 Nov (*fide* AB, JG). In Wisconsin sightings occurred in six counties with birds still present into Dec at Sheboygan (D&MB). Minnesota had one 17–20 Nov on French L., *Rice* (TB). Two **Pacific Loons** were found in Wisconsin. Putz had one at Wisconsin Pt., Superior, 8 Nov and Hutcheson found one on L. Mendota, *Madison/Middleton*, 14 Nov+ (m.ob.). Minnesota also had two, on L. Superior, *St. Louis*, 13 Sep–17 Oct (MH et al.) and on L. Calhoun, *Hennepin*, 12–20 Nov (BB). Com. Loons commenced migrating early, with an Aug 3 sighting at WPBO and two on 21 Aug at P.M.S.G.A. (AB). Peaks included 1,153 on L. Winnibigoshish, MN, 15 Oct (PS) and 750 in *Benzie*, MI, 29 Oct (KW, CF). Due to the abnormally mild weather, individuals lingered well into Dec. Horned Grebes appeared early, such as a 14 Aug sighting at WPBO. Individuals also lingered into the winter period. The WPBO staff tallied 16,645 Red-necked Grebes 3 Aug–14 Nov. Tardy were nine at Baraga, MI, 30 Nov (JY). Up to three Eared Grebes were at M.W.S. 8 Aug–7 Oct (m.ob.) while one was at the Metrobeach Metropark, MI, 3–9 Oct (AR). Singles were found at two Wisconsin sites: Racine 4 Nov (KD) and Madison 6–7 Nov (KB). A Western Grebe was observed by Grigg 1 Sep in *Presque Isle*. Putz had two 24 Sep and one 9 Oct at Wisconsin Pt., Superior. Clark's Grebes were present in Minnesota, with two at Thielke L., *Big Stone*, until 29 Aug and Clear L., *Stevens*, 29 Aug (KE et al). Four hundred Am. White Pelicans were at Horicon N.W.R. 30 Sep (DT), while an injured bird was at Green Bay until 18 Nov (JH). The Great White Heron present during the summer in *Macomb*, MI, lingered until 29 Oct (KT, AR, MM). The Upper Peninsula recorded more Great Egrets than normal, including one 18–20 Sep at Calumet, only the second for the Keweenaw Peninsula (LB).

Snowy Egrets were in Minnesota near Morris 23 Sep (JS) and in *Lac Qui Parle* 1–3 Oct (WM). In Wisconsin, three lingered in *Brown*, the last 2 Oct (JR, DT et al), and one was in Milwaukee 16 Oct (WMu). Little Blue Herons appeared in all three states. Wisconsin had singles in *Winnebago* 4–10 Aug (DK et al) and Horicon N.W.R. 8 Aug (TW), with two near Port Washington 5–7 Aug (JF, TW). In Michigan, one seen during the summer at Thorn L., *Jackson*, lingered until 4 Aug (KT, JC) and an imm. was at Arcadia Marsh, *Manistee*, 2 Aug (ph., BA, KW). Minnesota had an imm. at Rochester 1–6 Aug (CW et al). The **Tricolored Heron** summering at Michigan's Nayanquing Pt. WA was seen 2 and 17 Aug (KT, JSc). Cattle Egrets were scarce Regionwide, with the notable exception of 50 to 60 at Horicon NWR until early Sep (DT et al). Late sightings included 10–12 Nov in *Aitkin*, MN (WN), and 25–28 Nov in *Door*, WI (R&CL). Also tardy was a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Milwaukee 20 Nov (MK). Christensen watched a *Plegadis* ibis flying with several Double-crested Cormorants over L. Puckaway, *Green Lake*, WI, 22 Oct. A **Black Vulture** at WPBO 22–23 Oct (PC, AB, LD, DJ, KM, ph.) provided only the second Michigan record.

WATERFOWL

A real surprise was a family (two ad., eight imm.) of **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** discovered on a Galesville lake, *Trempealeau*, by Spencer about 10 Oct. They were identified a week later, at which time word spread. On 21–22 Oct several birders enjoyed and photographed the group. The birds were extremely wary, moving about the lake when approached closely. Passage of a strong cold front 22 Oct caused nine to migrate; an imm. with an injured wing remained until 27 Oct. This group provided only the third Wisconsin record, the two previous from spring 1998. Gr. White-fronted Geese migrated through Michigan in above normal numbers; the total of 15 included ten late in *Genesee* 26 Nov (TP). Ross's Geese appeared in four Minnesota counties, six in *Big Stone* (KB, BO) and singles in *Lake of the Woods* 19 Oct (PS), *Chippewa* 4 Nov (AH) and *Kanabec* 22 Nov (AH). In Wisconsin singles were in *Chippewa* 9–21 Oct (JP) and *St. Croix* 13 Nov (LP). A **Brant** was watched by Links at the Whiting Plant, *Monroe*, MI, 10 Nov. Unsettling were 125 Mute Swans in *Muskegon*, MI, 27 Nov (AB). A Tundra Swan 17 Sep in *Macomb*, MI (AR), was early. Tundras peaked 23,000 at UMR 22 Nov (WN). The mild early Dec induced many to linger in all three states; the maximum was 13,000 at UMR.

A Gadwall family at L. Linden Sewage Ponds represented the first breeding record for the Keweenaw Peninsula (LB). Peak waterfowl concentrations for Michigan included 31,205 Mallards 23 Nov at Shiawasse NWR (*fide* JSo) and 3,000 N. Shovelers 28 Sept at MWS (JPo). At UMR, a 1 Nov diving duck peak of 561,526 included *422,710* Canvasbacks, 7,000 Ring-necked Ducks and 116,000 scaup (WN). Minnesota had two King Eiders, one shot by a hunter 22 Oct in *Chippewa* and the other at Grand Marais 22 Nov, relocated several miles e. 27 Nov+ (K&MH et al). An eider species was watched off Harrington Beach S.P., WI, 19 Nov (DT). Harlequin Ducks were recorded in excellent numbers, with 13 in Minnesota, 11 in Michigan, and two in Wisconsin. Scoters had a sub-par migration, especially on the Great Lakes. All were recorded on inland lakes in the three states. Surfs and White-wingeds appeared early at WPBO, with birds 29 Aug and 21 Aug, respectively. The Long-tailed Duck period at WPBO extended 30 Sep–15 Nov, with 13,944 tallied. The Presque Isle Lighthouse, MI, had 8,033 passing in 1.5 hours 24 Oct (JG). Off Point Beach State Forest, *Manitowoc*, WI, 3,000+ were noted 17 Nov (DT). Mid-Aug Bufflehead sightings occurred in MI and WI. The male **Barrow's Goldeneye** returned in early Nov to Virmond Park, *Ozaukee*, WI, for the sixth year. Peak Ruddy Duck concentrations included 1,000–3,000 in each state.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Broad-winged Hawk flight varied between good to excellent; note Michigan's numbers (Table 1)! Likewise, the Swainson's Hawk flight was excellent, but only in Michigan and Minnesota (Tables 1, 2). Wisconsin had one in *Dodge* 30 Sep (DT). Ferruginous Hawks were found by Svingen in *Polk* 21 Aug and Hertzel in *Big Stone* 25 Sep, both MN. The Golden Eagle flight was excellent. Three Prairie Falcons appeared in Minnesota, 2 Aug in *Clay* (PS) and *St. Louis* (JGr) and the overwintering individual

returning to s. Minneapolis 13 Nov+ (BF et al). Minnesota birders found Yellow Rails at four sites: *St. Louis* 13 Aug (PW), *Jackson* 22 Sept (BBo), *Cook* 6 Oct (K&MH), and *Hennepin* 10 Oct (SC). Three Virginia Rails lingered at Madison into Dec (PA). Very late was a Sora in *Kandiyohi*, MN, 28 Nov (R&JF). On 18 Oct 122,700 Am. Coots were counted at UMR (WN). Sandhill Cranes lingered into Dec in WI and MI; e.g., 1,215 were counted 30 Nov in *Jackson*, MI (RD).

Peak plover numbers included 85 Black-bellieds 21 Oct at Green Bay (JR), 224 Am. Goldens 18 Oct in *Jackson*, MN (PC), 50 Semipalmateds 18 Aug at *Big Stone* NWR, MN (BO), and 372 Killdeers 26 Aug in *Dodge*, WI (JF). Piping Plovers were found at WPBO, with 2–3 on 3–4 Sept (JSc et al.); Wisconsin had one 6–18 Sep in *Manitowoc* (TW et al.). Black-necked Stilts that nested at Horicon NWR moved to a site w. of the refuge during Aug. Many birders enjoyed the adults and four of five young as the birds fed in flooded fields, departing at the end of the month. Also in Wisconsin was a record late bird 7 Nov in *Columbia* (AS). Am. Avocets were found in each state, with 13 in MN, seven in MI, and two in WI. Tardy was the Greater Yellowlegs at Shiawassee NWR, MI, 26 Nov (DP). Olson counted 343 Lesser Yellowlegs 18 Aug at Big Stone NWR An injured Solitary Sandpiper was still in *Wayne*, MI, 30 Nov (WP). Willets had a good flight, as evidenced by 20+ in MI, 15+ in WI, and six in MN. Sixty Spotted Sandpipers at Big Stone NWR 12 Aug was a record count (BO). Better-than-average fall numbers of Whimbrels were had, with 10+ in WI, four in MI, and one in MN.

Michigan had an excellent Hudsonian Godwit flight, with 70 to 75 reported from five sites, including a record 63 at M.W.S. 21 Aug (PC). Several were at Green Bay 23 Sep–21 Oct (DT, JH, JR et al). Both states also recorded Marbled Godwits. In Michigan, two were found at the mouth of the Huron R. 3 Aug–11 Oct (SS, SSh, AC et al.); others included one 21 Aug at St. Joseph (JRo), one 22 Aug at Nayanquing Pt. S.W.A. (JB), and two 4 Sept at Alpena (WG). In Wisconsin, two were at Green Bay 16–17 Aug (JR, JH), with one there 1 Oct (DT). The Ruddy Turnstone flight in WI and MI was exceptionally poor. Minnesota had no Red Knots but the other two states had good movements: Michigan had 13 from five sites and Wisconsin had 10+ from three sites. Green Bay had a remarkable Sanderling flight, peaking during the first three weeks of Oct when 500–600 fed on mudflats at the s. end of the bay (DT, JR). Notable shorebird peaks in Minnesota included 500 Semipalmateds 18 Aug, a record 1,787 Leasts 12 Aug, and a record 713 Pectorals 18 Aug, all at Big Stone NWR (BO), and 500 Stilts in *Jackson* 27 Sep (m.ob.). Wisconsin recorded a surprising number of W. Sandpipers, with 15 to 20 carefully documented from five sites. In Michigan singles were found at two sites. Late were Pectoral Sandpipers at Elberta, MI, 10 Nov (KW) and in *Dane*, WI, 13 Nov (ME). Michigan had an unusually good Purple Sandpiper flight, with birds at WPBO 23 Oct, their first record (m.ob.); S. Haven 30 Oct (RS); New Buffalo 7 and 22 Nov (RS); Frankfort 11 Nov (KW); P.M.G.S.A. late Nov (DS); up to three at Muskegon 14–29 Nov (CFr, AB, PC et al); and two at Ludington 30 Nov (BA). One was at Harrington Beach S.P., WI, 18–22 Nov (JF et al.). Impressive Dunlin numbers included 300 at Green Bay 21 Oct (JR) increasing to 500 by 1 Nov (DT). In Michigan, 400 to 430 were in *Monroe* 6–7 Nov (AB, KO). Both WI and MI had good Buff-breasted Sandpiper flights, each reporting approx. 30 birds from 10 to 15 sites. In Minnesota the main flight was during late Jul, with fair numbers noted during Aug–Sep from eight sites. Over 300 Short-billed Dowitchers were in *Dodge*, WI, 22 Aug (DT). An Am. Woodcock 20 Nov in *St. Louis* (SD) provided the third-latest Minnesota date. The Red-necked Phalarope flight was generally good; maximum flocks included 20+ in MN and 17 in WI. A **Red Phalarope** discovered by Bontly at the Schlitz Audubon Center in n. *Milwaukee* 19 Oct was, surprisingly, joined by another the next day. They ranged s. along the L. Michigan shore, eventually settling in Milwaukee, where the last lingered to 19 Nov (m.ob.). One was in New Buffalo Harbor, MI, 7 Nov (BM).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

The jaeger flight was below normal. Highlighting this group were one to three **Pomarine Jaegers** that alternated between Duluth, MN, and Superior, WI, 7–28 Sep. Two were ad., the other a juv. that was photographed. Other juvs. were on Chequamegon Bay, Ashland, WI, 7 Nov (RB, ph.) and Mille Lacs L., MN, 22 Nov (PS, AH). Nine Parasitic Jaegers were recorded at MI six sites, five were at two MN sites, and three were at two WI sites. The imm. Parasitic at Grand Marais 14–22 Nov was record late for MN. Michigan had 28 unidentified jaegers, the majority (25) at WPBO 27 Aug–14 Nov; another was at Ashland, WI, 16 Sep (RB). The Laughing Gull that summered at Manitowoc, WI, lingered until 22 Aug (AHo, CS). One was at Green Bay 1 Oct (JR). Small numbers of Franklin's Gulls were found in all three states. Tardy was one in *Sibley*, MN, 29 Nov (KB). Little Gulls were in Michigan at WPBO 4 Sep (JSc et al.), Grand Haven 11 Sep (SM), and Muskegon 5–18 Nov (CF, SM) and two were in *Ottawa* 5 Nov–early Dec (CF et al.). A juv. was on Minnesota's L. Winnibigoshish 3–4 Oct (PS, AH). Two **Black-headed Gulls** wandered to the MN side of Big Spirit L. 9 Oct–13 Nov (AH). Bonaparte's Gull peaks included 2,239 at Mille Lacs L. 14 Oct (AH, PS), 2,120 at L. Winnibigoshish 3 Oct (PS), and 1,500 at the Whiting Plant 6 Nov (AB). Two **Mew Gulls** were found in Wisconsin, a record-early ad. on a WSO field trip to nw. WI in Port Wing Harbor 25 Sep (m.ob.), and another at Milwaukee 20 Nov (DG). A California Gull spent 6–21 Nov on L. Calhoun, MN (PB et al.). Also early was an

Table 1. SMRR—Lake Erie Metropark and Pte. Mouillee SGA, MI—Raptor Totals (*fide* JSch)

Species	Totals	Comments
Turkey Vulture	31,425	
Osprey	73	
Bald Eagle	109	
N. Harrier	1,159	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11,571	record high 3,570 on 17 Sep
Cooper's Hawk	395	
N. Goshawk	32	
Red-shouldered Hawk	735	
Broad-winged Hawk	612,457	record high 555,371 on 17 Sep
Swainson's Hawk	14	record high; one 7 Nov—record late
Red-tailed Hawk	5,475	1,307 on 7 Nov
Rough-legged Hawk	93	
Golden Eagle	245	record high 48 on 31 Oct
Am. Kestrel	1,529	
Merlin	44	
Gyrfalcon	1	14 Nov (JSch)
Peregrine Falcon	93	record high 19 on 17 Sep

ad. Iceland Gull accompanying the Mew at Port Wing Harbor 25 Sep (m.ob.). Others were at Grand Marais 14 Nov+ (CK, JSt et al.) and in *Muskegon*, MI, 25 Nov (PC). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included 19 in Michigan, four in Wisconsin, and two in Minnesota. Minnesota had its fourth **Glaucous-winged Gull,** a second-year bird at Grand Marais 15–16 Nov and 27 Nov–4 Dec (PS et al.). Wisconsin likewise had its fourth, an uncooperative individual in Port Washington Harbor 25 and 27 Nov (SL, TU). Glaucous Gulls were in below-average numbers. Early for·s. MN was one 29 Oct at L. Calhoun (PB). Single **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were found 21 Oct at Grand Marais (m.ob.) and 21 Nov in *Bayfield*, WI (RB, ph.). Five lucky birders found Minnesota's first living alcid (all others had been found dead or shot by hunters). On 20 Oct, Benz spotted the state's seventh **Ancient Murrelet** actively feeding off Grand Marais. For 70 minutes the group watched as it repeatedly dove and made short flights eastward (DB, PC et al.).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Minnesota's eighth **Band-tailed Pigeon** was at Hawk Ridge 25 Oct (FN). **White-winged Doves** again made news. Michigan had its fifth when Binford watched one in *Houghton* 17 Aug, and Wisconsin had its second when Cowart saw one flying by Concordia College, *Ozaukee*, 16 Oct. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to be observed in Minnesota. Three in Jasper since early 1999 remained into Dec; four at Fairmont mid-Oct (BK) provided the sixth state record. A successful Barn Owl nest was discovered in *Grant*, WI, late Aug (FL et al., ph.). Unusual for Duluth was an E. Screech-Owl banded by Nicoletti 8 Oct. Snowy Owls were exceptionally scarce, indicative of a poor winter irruption. Also scarce were N. Hawk and Great Gray Owls. The only N. Hawk Owl was one in Duluth 17–18 Nov (*fide* DBe) and Great Grays were found in three MN and one WI counties. By contrast good numbers of Short-eared Owls were in all three states. Single Boreal Owls were banded at Hawk Ridge 1 Oct and 16 Nov, with one at WPBO 26 Oct. Excellent numbers of N. Saw-whet Owls were banded in each state. Undoubtedly due to the lack of fronts, the Com. Nighthawk flight was poor. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird captured during mid-Oct in *Outagamie*, WI, was rehabilitated and flown to Florida where it eagerly joined its colleagues! A *Selasphorus* hummingbird came to Jacob's feeder in *Crawford*, WI, 20 Oct–11 Nov, when captured. Unfortunately it died during rehabilitation. Michigan also had a *Selasphorus*, at a Lansing feeder 9 Oct (CH), and two male **Rufous Hummingbirds,** at a Lachine feeder 16–17 Aug (R&MS, ph.) and at a Fenton feeder 19 Aug–6 Sep (PC, AB, SH, ST et al., ph.). This fall is the third consecutive the species has been found in Michigan.

Red-bellied Woodpecker sightings increased in n. parts of the Region; e.g., one was at Superior 9 Oct (RJ) and four were in the Upper Peninsula 10 Oct–8 Nov. A male **Williamson's Sapsucker** was observed at Taconite Harbor 16 Oct (AHe, AH, PS), representing Minnesota's third record. Black-backed Woodpecker sightings were up in Michigan and along Minnesota's Lake Shore.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A W. Kingbird was at Stony Pt., MN, 19 Sep (JGr). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen during Aug in five MN and two WI counties (both were family groups in the latter state). There was an excellent N. Shrike flight in Wisconsin and Michigan. Up to four White-eyed Vireos were in *Hillsdale* 9 and 18–19 Sep (JRe, SS) and one was in *Branch* 12 Sep (JG), both MI. The Yellow-throated Vireo at Grass L., MI, 27 Sep was late (DBr). Other tardy vireos included a Philadelphia banded at Hawk Ridge 30 Oct (DGr), the second-latest record for MN, and a Red-eyed at Croftville, MN, 22 Oct (AH, PS). Gray Jay sightings were above normal in Michigan. South of normal were Com. Ravens in Michigan's *Lake* 11 Oct (FA, TA) and *Iosco* 28 Nov (DP, JD). Impressive swallow concentrations included 15,000 Trees in *Muskegon* 28 Sep (JPo) and 10,000 at Horicon NWR 30 Sep (DT), plus a record 2,500 Banks in *Traverse*, MN, 1 Aug (PS). Ah, the luck of some birders! Two-thirds of Michigan's Records Committee, an hour before they were to meet, found the state's (and Region's) first **Cave Swallow** at Grand Isle Marina, Grand Haven, 13 Nov (KT, KM, AB, AC, CFr, JRe, DM). Extremely late were Barn Swallows in *Berrien*, MI, 30 Nov+ (KM, JW) and in *Scott*, MN, 14–17 Nov (CM, SC), the latter record late. Tufted Titmice coming to feeders in Rogers City and North Pt. (WG) were n. of their normal Michigan range. Wisconsin and parts of Michigan had an excellent Red-breasted Nuthatch movement. Carolina Wren reports came from 14 Michigan, four Wisconsin, and one Minnesota Counties. Late was a House Wren observed by Regan in *Brown*, WI, 11 Nov. Likewise tardy was a Marsh Wren in *Dane*, WI, 20 Nov (PA). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was watched by the Hoffmans at Grand Marais 22 Oct. Tardy gnatcatchers included two at WPBO 8 Nov (*fide* AB, JG) and one in *Ozaukee*, WI, 2 Nov (DT). Minnesota recorded four Mountain Bluebirds. Females were found in *Mille Lacs* 4 Oct (PS), *Kanabec* 14 Oct (AH), and *Dakota* 14–15 Oct (D&BS et al), with a two at Holland 3 Nov (*fide* AH). Extremely early were Townsend's Solitaires in *Washburn*, WI, 23 Sep (JW) and *Hennepin*, MN, 28 Sep (SC); the Wisconsin bird was record early. Minnesota had 12 additional birds from three counties. In Michigan, one was in *Iosco* 27 Oct (DM). The thrush migration was absolutely terrible. Exceptionally low numbers of Gray-cheekeds and Swainson's were reported, with other thrush numbers almost as dismal (m.ob.). A Varied Thrush 23 Sep in Grand Marais (K&MH) was the third-earliest for MN. Others were in *Anoka* and *Crow Wing* during Nov. N. Mockingbirds found were a pair lingering until 26 Aug in *Door*, WI (R&CL, JR), one in *Cook*, MN, 19 Sep and 21 Nov (D&BM), and one in *Monroe*, MI, 21 Nov (WP).

Table 2. Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve MN Raptor Totals

Species	Totals	Comments
Turkey Vulture	1,912	
Osprey	442	
Bald Eagle	3,155	
N. Harrier	1,373	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20,449	
Cooper's Hawk	290	
N. Goshawk	558	
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	
Broad-winged Hawk	86,513	
Swainson's Hawk	17	good number
Red-tailed Hawk	9,770	
Rough-legged Hawk	834	
Golden Eagle	121	
Am. Kestrel	2,861	record high
Merlin	277	
Peregrine Falcon	62	

This Barn Owl near Boscobel, Grant, Wisconsin, in late Aug 1999 was part of a successful locale nesting effort. Photograph/Fred Lesher

Early were Am. Pipits in *Bay* 20 Aug (AB) and *Muskegon* 22 Aug (GW, ES), both MI. Truly impressive were pipit numbers tallied in Minnesota: North had 300 in *Cass* 4 Oct and the Millards had *600* in *Otter Tail* 26 Sep, both record counts. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in fair to good numbers in n. parts of the Region, mainly in Nov.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Present at the beginning of the season was a Tennessee Warbler in *Washington*, WI (BD). Record late was one in Madison 25 Nov (PA). Also record late in Minnesota was a Yellow Warbler in *Ramsey* 28 Nov (TT). Other tardy warblers in Minnesota were a Chestnut-sided banded at Hawk Ridge 19 Oct (Dgr) and a Cape May in *Lake* 6 Nov (KE et al.). In contrast Michigan had early warblers, including an Orange-crowned 30 Aug in *Iosco* (DGa) and a Chestnust-sided 16 Aug in *Wayne* (JC). Yellow-rumped Warblers migrated in unusually low numbers throughout Michigan. Of special note was a female feeding two fledglings at Agate Harbor, MI, 17 Aug (LB), which is late. Unique was Michigan's first **Audubon's Warbler,** observed 21 Sep in *Macomb* (AR). Michigan had **Yellow-throated Warblers** 27 Aug in *Berrien* (DV), 12 Sep in *Branch* (JG), and very late 3 and 5–6 Nov in *Monroe* (AC, AB et al., ph.). However, in Wisconsin an individual at Marking's feeder w. of Onalaska during Nov lingered well into Dec. One successfully wintered at this site two years ago. No fewer than five **Kirtland's Warblers** were in *Marquette* 1–3 Aug for only the second fall Upper Peninsula record (MP); one was at Grayling 1 Aug (KT). A Prairie Warbler at Richfield 12–19 Aug (TT et al.) represented Minnesota's first fall record. A male was in *Mason*, MI, 15 Aug (BA) and the Smiths had one in *Oconto*, WI, 5 Oct. Record late for Wisconsin was a Palm Warbler found by Bridge (PBr) at Marinette 26 Nov. Early was a Bay-breasted Warbler 1 Aug in *Washington*, WI, (BD) and a Blackpoll Warbler 14 Aug at Agate Harbor (LB). At the other extreme were a Bay-breasted in *Cook* 6 Nov (C&MM), the second-latest date, a Blackpoll in *Rice* 3 Nov (CG), and an Am. Redstart in *Lake* 6 Nov (KE et al), all MN. Michigan's tardy warblers included a Prothonotary 17 Oct in Warren Woods S.P. (AA), two Ovenbirds 9 Nov in Detroit (KO), and a Com. Yellowthroat 9 Nov at Shiawassee NWR (BG, CSz). Wisconsin also had a late yellowthroat in *Dane* 20 Nov (PA). Seven Hooded Warblers, above normal, were found early Aug to mid-Sep in Michigan. Yellow-breasted Chat sightings in Michigan were from *Presque Isle* 16 Sep (WG) and at Agate Harbor 25 Sep (LB, JM).

Summer Tanagers were sighted in Minnesota at Spring L. Park 20 Aug (AH) and Knife R. 21 Oct (AH, PS). In Wisconsin singles were in Milwaukee 14 Oct (KD) and at Wausau 28–31 Oct (DBel et al.). A male **Western Tanager** was watched at the Heckrodt Wetlands near Menasha, WI, 6 Sep (DT). Wisconsin's 10th **Green-tailed Towhee** came to Nowak's feeder in *Milwaukee* 9–10 Oct (ph. MNo). Representing only Wisconsin's sixth record was a **Spotted Towhee** at Madison 2–6 Nov (PA et al). In Minnesota single Spotteds were in *Lac Qui Parle* 1 Oct (WM) and *Murray* 17–18 Oct (ND). A **Lark Bunting** was seen near Copper Harbor 27 Aug (LB, JY, JRoo). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in five Minnesota and two Wisconsin counties. Exceptionally late were two Lincoln's Sparrows in Detroit 19 Nov, with one lingering into Dec (KO). Very early was a Dark-eyed Junco 6 Aug at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, *Outagamie*, WI (JA). Up to 50 Smith's Longspurs were in *Cottonwood* 16–25 Oct (CK, JSt), with up to three each in *Marshall*, *Polk*, and *Wilkin*. Michigan's third **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at WPBO 29–30 Oct (Jru, AB). Truly impressive were *20,000+* Snow Buntings in *Aitkin*, MN, 31 Oct (WN et al.). Far n. were Northern Cardinals at Superior, WI, 17–24 Oct (RJ) and Copper Harbor 29 Nov (SB). A territorial imm. male **Blue Grosbeak** was at the Aasen residence in *LaCrosse*, WI, 4–21 Aug (m.ob.). A male **Painted Bunting** at a feeder in w. *Hennepin* 10–20 Aug represented Minnesota's seventh record (m.ob.). A Rusty Blackbird in Wisconsin's *Portage* 12 Sep was early (MB). Up to 50 **Great-tailed Grackles** were watched during Oct in s. *Jackson*, MN.

Winter finches presented a more optimistic picture than the dismal one last year. *All* species were found, although numbers were highly variable between and within states. The most abundant was the Com. Redpoll, especially along Minnesota's North Shore where thousands were migrating 22–24 Oct. Hoary Redpolls were found in all three states, with a record early Wisconsin sighting in *Kewaunee* 30 Oct (BH).

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Fall 1999 was mild and dry. Strong frontal systems were conspicuously absent in August and September, creating what Alan Bruner graphically referred to as "stagnant" weather. This tranquil atmosphere provided perfect conditions for migrating passerines; there were few fall-outs or waves. Across the Region low precipitation desiccated mud flats and significantly lowered water levels, thereby modifying shorebird migration patterns in many areas. The season's highest temperatures, compared to average, occurred in November, the warmest on record in the western states. Taking advantage of optimum atmospheric conditions, most passerines over-flew the Region, producing, from the birder's perspective, one of the poorer autumn songbird migrations in recent memory. Balmy November temperatures also caused some waterfowl and many gulls to linger north of the Region, pushing migration into winter. As a result, mediocre numbers and precious few high daily counts characterized the season.

In the absence of a sterling flight among the regular migrants, Middlewestern Prairie Region birders compensated by ferreting out an unprecedented number of vagrants. The season's rarities list included an impressive seven first state records, two also firsts for the Region. Unfortunately, formal reports from Kentucky and Missouri did not arrive in time to be incorporated into this summary. Information from these states is represented only by personal data submitted by Brainard Palmer-Ball and Frank Renfrow (KY), and Mark Robbins (MO).

Abbreviations: Carl. L. *(Carlyle Lake in Clinton, Fayette, and Bond Counties, IL);* H.B.S.P *(Headlands Beach S.P., OH);* L. Cal. *(Lake Calumet, Chicago);* L. Chau. *(Lake Chatauqua N.W.R., IL);* O.N.W.R. *(Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., OH);* R.E.D.A. *(Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO);* S.C.R. *(Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO);* Spfld. *(Springfield, IL).*

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons appeared in excellent numbers with 67 reported on the Indiana lakefront, 14 in Ohio, 11 in Illinois, four in Iowa, and one in Missouri. Pacific Loons were restricted to w. states; singletons were reported at three inland Illinois locations and two in Iowa. Com. Loons peaked 7 Nov with 520 at Oberlin Beach, OH (VF). Except for Eared Grebes, which were scarce, grebe numbers were near normal. Birders at Miller Beach, IN, were stunned when a close range imm. N. Gannet flew past 6 Nov (†JCd, EH, WS, SB, DG, m.ob.) to provide Indiana's third record in the past eight years. Once again Am. White Pelicans were plentiful across the Region; the peak count was 7,600 at Saylorville, IA, 19 Sep (BEn) and seven wandered e. to Ohio, where the largest count consisted of three near Dayton 28 Nov (KG). Brown Pelicans, accidental only a decade ago, are becoming casual in the Region. This fall singletons were reported at Geist Res., *Hamilton*, IN, 3–14 Aug (†DG, RBu, P & JK m.ob.) and an adult was at Saylorville Res., IA, 22–29 Sep (†JF, †TK, †JD, †CE et al.).

With two exceptions herons and egrets appeared in typical numbers. An exceptional count of 1,200 Great Egrets was made at L. Chau. 21 Aug (RCh), and in Missouri Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were deemed scarce (MRo). Additionally, the 47 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Turning Point I., *Erie*, OH, 29 Nov (RHa, SW), were remarkable for the late date. Unidentified *Plegadis* ibis were reported in Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio. Impressive Turkey Vulture concentrations included 500 at Heuston Woods S.P., OH, 13 Oct (DRu) and 250+ at Newton L., IL, 15 Oct (LH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Although the main goose flight was late, a Gr. White-fronted appeared at Terra L., IA, 22 Aug (BEn) and 3,000 Snow Geese were at

Carl. L. 27 Nov (DKa). Three Ross's Geese were logged in Iowa and one was at Fermi-Lab, Batavia, IL, 7 Nov (AS). A count of 2,000 Tundra Swans in *Allamakee*, IA, 27 and 29 Nov (TK, JF, DC) was exceptional. The fall duck flight was fairly light. Noteworthy dabbler reports included an ad. male Eur. Wigeon at Carl L. 16–31 Oct (DKa, KMc, †FBe) and 1,400 Green-winged Teal at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 3 Oct (EPi). The Region's only Harlequin Ducks appeared along the Indiana lakefront, where three were reported, including an early arrival 22 Oct at Miller Beach (JMc et al.). Scoter numbers were down on the Great Lakes, but typical numbers appeared inland, with small groups of Surf and Black Scoters reported in all four n. states. Long-tailed Ducks were decidedly scarce; the peak count was 12 at Miller Beach 25 Nov (BGr), but a record-early ad. male arrived at Smithville L., MO, 13 Oct (MRo). Other early records included a Bufflehead at Miller Beach, IN, 4 Sep (RHu) and Com. Goldeneyes at Iowa City, IA, 22 Oct (MDo) and Boonville, IN, 14 Aug (female; †ML, †DA, ph.).

The diurnal raptor flight was relatively uneventful, with no reports of major movements. Perhaps the most noteworthy fall raptor was a Mississippi Kite that dallied in Des Moines, IA, through 3 Sep (JD, JF). N. Goshawks were scarce, with only eight reports across the four n. states, the Region's lowest fall tally in three years. Broad-winged Hawks went virtually unreported in every state except Iowa; there the peak count consisted of 326 at Grammer Grove 20 Sep (BPr). Twenty Swainson's Hawks counted 30 Sep at Hitchcock W.M.A., IA (B & LP) provided a better-than-average peak tally for w. Iowa. Rough-legged Hawks staged a good flight in e. states, with 29 in Ohio and 18 in nw. Indiana. A distinct wave of Golden Eagles passed through 23 Oct–7 Nov, during which ten were recorded in the four n. states. Most noteworthy were four in Ohio, an adult in Parma 24 Oct (CR) plus imms. at Ravenna Arsenal 27 Oct (LRo), in *Pauling* 4 Nov (MDu), and at Oak Openings 8 Nov (JHa et al.). The Region's Merlin population continues to burgeon: 80 were scattered across every state except Kentucky.

It was an extraordinary fall for Yellow Rails. A remarkable seven were found at Riverton W.M.A., IA, 8 Oct (Carl Priebe *fide* RS), singletons were discovered at four different Illinois locations and were flushed at two sites in Ohio, Big Island W.M.A. 15 Aug (†JG) and Gordon Park, *Cuyahoga*, OH, 30 Sep (†JHa, DS). In contrast, King Rail reports were restricted to Illinois, where three were seen in Sep. Most impressive for autumn were the 51 Soras at Arcola, IL, 3 Oct (RCh). Following last spring's Purple Gallinule incursion, only one fall bird was reported, an immature at the Daly Center in downtown Chicago 29 Sep with an injured leg; ultimately the bird perished (SP). Sandhill Cranes were observed in all reporting states; the peak count at the Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging area was 13,300 (*fide* JCs).

SA Undoubtedly the discovery of an ad. **Common Crane** at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, on the afternoon of 30 Oct (Janis Jokela and members of the Champaign County [Illinois] and Stockbridge [Fort Wayne] Audubon Societies), provided the season's most exciting birding event. Taking full advantage of contemporary high-technology, word of its presence spread almost instantly and on the following morning some 100 observers gathered to ogle this striking bird. Over the next two weeks hundreds more converged on the site. As a result of efficient coordination by site manager Jim Bergens and his staff, plus Hoosier birder Phil Kelly, the vast majority of the throng successfully saw the bird. It was last seen 13 Nov (†JMc, †EPo, P&JK, RAu, †m.ob., ph.).

Actually, a 7 Oct Common Crane report from nw. Quebec had alerted Indiana birders to the possibility that the bird might appear at the Jasper-Pulaski staging area for Greater Sandhill Cranes. Interestingly, the Quebec bird associated with two juveniles and an adult Sandhill Crane. Careful scrutiny quickly revealed that the Indiana crane also associated with an adult Sandhills and two immatures that clearly showed the characters of hybrids. Even more interesting, a crane authority determined that the Common Crane's mate was in fact a Lesser Sandhill Crane. During spring 1999, a Common Crane was reported associating with Lesser Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska; consequently, bonding with a Lesser Sandhill Crane might well have a bearing on the Indiana's bird's origin, which is invariably a thorny and often unresolvable issue. Despite correspondence with the International Crane Foundation and other sources, as yet the origin investigation has provided nothing definitive.

SHOREBIRDS

No large Am. Golden-Plover concentrations were reported; the peak count was 119 at Red Rock Res., IA, 22 Sep (ABe). A fine Semipalmated Plover count of 100 was logged at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 19 Aug (JHa, DSa). Typical fall Piping Plover numbers were reported, with four in Illinois, four in Iowa, and one in Indiana. Peak yellowlegs counts included 90 Greaters at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 25 Aug (RHa, SW) and 4,458 Lessers at L. Chau. 5 Aug (RBj, SBj). Solitary Sandpipers were unusually sociable this fall, with a Missouri record 41 at S.C.R. 1 Aug (MRo) and 40 at L. Bloomington, IL, 29 Aug (MRe). The only Upland Sandpiper concentration consisted of 30 in Decatur, IL, 8 Aug (MDe). Whimbrels numbers were near average except in Ohio, where 20 were at the Ravenna Arsenal 24 Aug (LRo). One of the season's best finds was a **Long-billed Curlew** in *Holmes*, OH, 1–2 Oct (†BGl, RHa, SW, m.ob.), providing Ohio's third record for the 20th Century. The peak Hudsonian Godwit counts consisted of 22 at L. Chau. 25 Aug (KR) and a flock of 12 that flew past Miller Beach 24 Aug (JMc, EPo, KB), the latter constitutes a record count for Indiana. Red Knots were scarce on the Great Lakes, with seven on L. Erie and five on L. Michigan. Inland knot reports included singletons at Horseshoe Bend, IA, 3–4 Sep (CFu, †JF) and at L. Chau. 4–9 Sep (RCh). Sanderling counts were disturbing low; the Region's peak tally was 45 at Sheldon Marsh S.P., OH, 15 Sep (DS); typical maxima exceed 100 birds.

Peak counts among smaller sandpipers included 1,500+ Semipalmateds at L. Chau. 14 Aug (IOS), 2,143 Leasts at L. Chau. 29 Jul (RBj, SBj), 27 White-rumpeds at Berlin Res., OH, 9 Sep (BM), 30 Baird's at Union Slough N.W.R. (MK), 3,654 Pectorals at L. Chau. 19 Aug (RBj, SBj), and 1,570+ Dunlin at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 26 Oct (VF). Also noteworthy was an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper at Coralville Res., IA, 10–11 Aug (†TK et al.), where rare in fall. An early Nov influx of Purple Sandpipers produced four birds along L. Erie's shoreline and a record daily count of four on the Indiana lakefront 6 Nov (BGr et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusually plentiful across the Region; more than 30 were recorded in Ohio and tardy individuals lingered until 31 Oct at Carl. L. (FBe) and 30 Oct at Waukegon, IL (CW, CFi, VM), establishing new late departure dates for that state. An impressive 100 Com. Snipes were found a L. Monroe, IN, 20 Nov (J & SH). It was a good season for phalaropes. Two to nine Wilson's were

SA It was a phenomenal year for jaegers, with 107 reported on L. Michigan, 22 on L. Erie, and ten inland birds. The flight was unprecedented, even surpassing numbers reported in the halcyon days of the 1950s. The largest daily counts were logged in Indiana, where a remarkable 101 jaegers were tallied along the lakefront. This total included daily flights of 27 on 14 Nov (four †Pomarine, 11 Parasitic, and 12 unidentified); 15 on Oct 23 (two †Pomarine, three Parasitic, and 10 unidentified); and 13 on Nov 11, including a single flock of nine unidentified birds. Also on L. Michigan one Parasitic (†MRe) and five unidentified jaegers were reported along the Illinois lakefront. Oddly, Pomarine Jaegers dominated the L. Erie flight; an astonishing 17 were reported (but none documented) in Nov, with a peak of five at Huron 28 Nov (JPg). The L. Erie total also included one Parasitic and four unidentified jaegers.

Inland jaegers were also plentiful. In Illinois a Pomarine was present at Clin. L. 31 Oct–7 Nov (MDe, †MRe, †RCh et al.) and two more Illinois birds were unidentified. Indiana's L. Monroe attracted two Parasitic and two Pomarine Jaegers 21 Oct–6 Nov (†J & SH et al.). On 4 Nov one of the Poms was observed killing and eating what appeared to be a Ring-billed Gull (J & SH). An inland Pomarine Jaeger was also reported at East Fork S.P., OH, 30 Oct–15 Nov (HA, JLe, DO, m.ob., ph.). Highlights within the above throng included two juvenile **Long-tailed Jaegers.** The first, at Carl. L., was discovered 19 Sep (DKa, MDe, KMc, LH, m.ob.), was still present 25 Sep (†MRe, †RM, RHe, †IOS, ph.), and was last seen 2 Oct (*fide* KMc). It provided the second confirmed record for Illinois. Another Long-tailed spent several hours at Miller Beach 29 Sep (†KB, †JMc, BEt, P&JK). In total, the Region was graced with some 139 jaegers.

reported in all four n. states and the Red-necked tally included 18 in Ohio, 18 in Iowa, and 15 in Illinois. Red Phalaropes were reported only on the Great Lakes, with seven in Ohio and four in Indiana. One of the latter, a basic-plumaged adult, arrived at Michigan City, IN, on the exceptionally early date of 1 Sep (†DP).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

One to three Laughing Gulls were recorded in each of the four n. states. Following last fall's Franklin's Gull invasion, the situation returned to normal this fall. The most notable single observation consisted of 20,000+ Franklin's at Smithville L., MO, 3 Oct (CH, MRo). Between 1 Oct and 13 Nov one to two Black-headed Gulls were reported at the traditional Iowa location at Spirit L. (LS, PH, JF, RAl et al., ph.). California Gulls were restricted to Indiana, where an adult was at Michigan City Harbor 25 Nov (†KB, †Haw). Thayer's Gulls were scarce except in Indiana, where a peak of seven was reported on the lakefront 14 Nov (JMc, BEt). The westward expansion of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued, with 12 reported in Indiana, 11 in Illinois, and one (a first-year bird) at Spirit L., IA, 6 and 24 Nov (LC, MK, PH). Glaucous Gull numbers remained low; only four were reported on s. L. Michigan. Black-legged Kittiwakes were surprisingly scarce, with only singles at Lakeshore Metropark, OH, 7 Nov (JPg) and at Miller Beach 14 Nov (JMc, m.ob.). The few Sabine's Gulls found were well distributed across the Region. Single birds appeared on four central Illinois reservoirs, an adult flew past Miller Beach 20 Sep (JMc, BEt et al.), an early juv. was at Coralville Res., IA, 18 Aug (TK, JF), and another juv. was at Conneaut Harbor, OH, 23 Sep (JPg). The most noteworthy **Sabine's Gull** was a juv. on the Ohio R., in *McCracken*, KY, 7 Oct (†FBe), where this species is accidental.

In Ohio, tardy Caspian Terns lingered at both Huron (DSa, JHa) and Conneaut Harbor (JPg) until 3 Nov. The only large Com. Tern movement occurred at Miller Beach, where 3,200 were counted 20 Sep (JMc et al.). The season's best terns were two **Arctic Terns** at Saylorville Res., IA, providing Iowa's first records. The first was an adult 18 Aug (†SDi, †JD, ph.) and seen again 20 Aug (†AJ). Incredibly, while searching for the adult 19 Aug, a juvenile was discovered (†SDi, †JD, †TK). Extralimital Least Terns were seen only in Illinois, where an ad. an two imm. were at L. Chau. 21 Aug (RCh) and an imm. was on L. Bloomington 6 Sep (†MRe). Refreshingly, Black Tern numbers were up this fall, with a peak count of 270 at Miller Beach 24 Aug (JMc, EPo), the highest Indiana tally in a decade.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

This fall Eur. Collared-Doves strengthened their beachhead in the Region. In addition to multiple sightings at the traditional Grinnell, IA, site one was also reported at a new location at Ankey, IA (†SDi). Elsewhere they were reported at five Illinois locations and two immatures were observed at Brook, IN (BDu, J & SH), where that state's first

Given their penchant for appearing at inland locales across the middle of the continent, this adult Arctic Tern at Sayorville Reservoir, Polk, 18–20 Aug 1999 provided a somewhat "overdue" first for Iowa. This photo was taken the first day of its stay. Remarkably, a juvenile joined this adult the following day. Photograph/Stephen J. Dinsmore

record was established only last May. White-winged Doves are becoming casual in the Region; this fall had one documented at Urbana, IL, 18 Oct (RCh). Ohio's first **Common Ground-Dove** was found at Breksville Reservation 5–6 Nov (†JMz). In Ohio several Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered into late Oct, the latest 27 Oct at both Rockbridge (LG) and the Spring Grove Cemetery (NC). N. Saw-whet Owls invaded, providing records in all four n. states, plus an unprecedented occurrence in Kentucky. In *Madison*, KY, Mark Monroe's banding effort on nine Nov evenings yielded a phenomenal 19 N. Saw-whets (and one E. Screech-Owl), doubling the number of Kentucky records (*fide* BPB). One Saw-whet in Mark's net had been previously banded near Bedford, PA, 24 Oct 1998. Only modest Com. Nighthawk flights were recorded this fall; peak tallies included 900+ over Alsip, IL, 22 Aug (SF), 500 at Whitehorse, OH, 29 Aug (MA), and 314 in New Richmond, OH, 25 Aug (DM). Rarely observed in migration, the discovery of an injured Chuck-will's-widow migrant at Chicago's Navy Pier 20–21 Oct (SP*) was noteworthy. Top billing on this fall's unusually short vagrant hummingbird list went to a **Green Violet-ear** that visited Taylor Mill, *Kenton*, KY, 25–27 Aug (†LMc, BPB, RD, FR, ph.) to provide the Region's first record. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird, either Rufous or Allen's, visited Urbana, IL, 30 Nov–4 Dec (HR, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were unusually common and widespread this fall. The earliest report consisted of a bird in Urbana, IL, 30 Jul (RCh) and the last was at H.B.S.P 2

Oct (RHn). Migrant Alder Flycatchers were reported in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa; the latest was a tardy bird at Carl. L. 27 Sep (KMc). Most impressive was a count of five W. Kingbirds in *Madison*, IL, 7 Aug (KMc, IOS). An imm. E. Kingbird lingered at Smithville L., MO, until 3 Oct (MRo, CH). A vanguard of the largest N. Shrike flight since 1995 appeared 17 Oct at Lake Forest, IL (RP). The shrike tally by state consisted of 17 in Ohio, 14 in Illinois, 13 in Iowa, and three in Indiana. An extraordinarily late Philadelphia Vireo lingered at North Chagrin Park, *Cuyahoga*, OH, 18–24 Nov (KMt, HP, VF, LRo). Vying for most astonishing record of the season was a **Western Scrub-Jay** that arrived at the feeding station of Bob and Karen Vester, s. of Lafayette, IN, and remained through the season (BDu, KA, †m.ob., ph.). It represented apparently only the second record e. of the Mississippi R., the other from Illinois in fall 1984 (*Am. Birds* 39:62). Although the origin of this bird cannot be determined with certainty, the bird's behavior and appearance provided no evidence that it had been in captivity. Black-billed Magpies appeared in two w. Iowa counties, one at Hitchcock W.M.A., *Pottawattamie*, 27 Sep (SM) and the other was in *Plymouth* 9 Oct (WF).

The largest swallow build-ups included 3,000 Purple Martins at L. Chau. 28 Aug (RCh), 5,000 Tree Swallows at Big Island, OH (DO), and 10,000 Bank Swallows at L. Chau. 14 Aug (RCh). A pair of late Barn Swallows lingered at the Brazil, IN, sewage ponds until 14 Nov (AB). Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupted this fall; beginning in mid-Aug good numbers invaded the entire Region. Kentucky's first **Brown-headed Nuthatch** appeared below Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 26 Sep–12 Oct (DRo, BPB et al., ph.). Overanxious Golden-crowned Kinglet migrants got an early start with singletons at Spencer, IA, 17 Aug (LS) and at Johnson's Is., OH, 31 Aug (RHa, SW). The Region's only Varied Thrush was seen at Fenton, IA, 20 and 30 Nov (MK, JF). Am. Pipits were more numerous than normal, with counts exceeding 70 birds reported in all four n. states. A record-early Sprague's Pipit was at St. Joseph, MO, 14 Sep; four more were at the same location 8 Oct (MRo). Most correspondents lamented that the fall warbler flight was significantly less than exciting. An extremely tardy N. Parula was recorded at Saylorville Res., IA, 13 Nov (†JD) and another was still at H.B.S.P 25 Oct (RHn). Two Pine Warblers at L. Davis Memorial Forest, MO, 21 Sep were well w. of their normal range (MRo). A Palm Warbler of the yellow race *hypochrysea* was found in *Holmes*, OH, 28 Oct (ES) and a rarely seen Cerulean Warbler migrant was identified in Chicago's Jackson Park 11 Sep (CW). Urban birding was taken to a new level when a remarkable ten Connecticut Warblers (five visible in one binocular view) were in Seneca Park (downtown Chicago) 5 Sep (WS, CA, SF). A single Connecticut in Indianola, IA, 6 Sep (JSi), was well west of this species' primary fall-migration corridor.

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were widespread and lingered later than normal. The latest were single birds at Algoma, IA, 7 Nov (†MK), in Union Co. W.M.A., IL, 16 Oct (KMc, RM, FBe, VL), and in *Dallas*, IA, 16 Oct (JD). Also quite tardy was a female Scarlet Tanager in Columbus, OH, 20 Nov (AG). East of the Mississippi R., Spotted Towhees were reported at Union County W.M.A., IL, 16 Oct (KMc et al.) and at Clin. L. 20–21 Nov (JCh, m.ob.). The easternmost Clay-colored Sparrow was observed on the jetty at Huron, OH, 22 Sep (JHa, DSa). Unexpected migrant sparrows on the Chicago lakefront included a Lark at Lincoln Park 23 Oct (RF, KF) and a Grasshopper in Jackson Park 3 Oct (PC). Typical Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were recorded in the w. states; one was also found at Kelly's Is., OH, 3 Oct (BF, SZ, PL), where this species is casual. Other noteworthy reports included a tardy Lincoln's Sparrow in Evanston, IL, 6 Nov (MRe) and a Harris's Sparrow at Salamonie Res., IN, 25 Sep (Haw et al). Large numbers of Lapland Longspurs arrived early, with 3,000 in n.-cen. Iowa 25 Oct (TK) and 5,000 in *Vermilion*, IL, 18 Nov (JSm). Smith's Longspurs were also surprisingly plentiful in the w. states, with six records involving 33 birds in Iowa (where there were only two previous fall records) and 80+ at St. Joseph, MO, 5 Nov (MRo). An astonishingly early Snow Bunting was identified at Evanston, IL, 25 Sep (EW, JE).

A late Dickcissel was at Maumee Bay S.P., OH, 20 Nov (JHa et al.). Rarely seen in migration, 230 Bobolinks at Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, 2 Sep (BDu) were impressive. Also extraordinary was a flock of 200 E. Meadowlarks in *Licking*, OH, 14 Oct (HN). A distinct highlight of this fall's winter finch irruption was a Pine Grosbeak in *Paulding*, OH, 20 Oct (†PA), the Region's only report. Red Crossbills were reported in every n. state except Iowa; the maximum was 18 at Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, OH, 28 Nov (GL). White-winged Crossbills arrived in late Nov to provide the backbone of the winter finch flight; they were widespread in all four n. states. Small to modest numbers of Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins accompanied the crossbills. By far the most surprising finch was a male **Lesser Goldfinch** at Rockford 5 Aug (†Ellen S. Montgomery, ph.), providing Iowa's first record. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, with small numbers in Ohio and one in Illinois.

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central southern

American Woodcocks are often seen but rarely captured on film as well as this road warrior at Pace Point, Henry, Tennessee, 14 Nov 1999. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson

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In a fine autumn, the Region hosted good numbers and a wide spectrum of birds. Hardy offshore volunteers, manning the Gulf platforms, recorded impressive totals of transients and seabirds. Land-based observers were treated to exciting vagrants at both inland and coastal sites. Rainfall decreased this fall, though October saw a mild rebound; temperatures were slightly higher than normal in many areas. Coastal migrant concentrations were more frequent in September than October, though good numbers were found after the fronts of 10 and 14 October. Reports of significant rarities not accompanied by convincing documentation have been excluded, excepting processed specimens.

Abbreviations: b. *(banded);* C.P. *(Cameron Parish, sw. LA);* Ewing Bank *(platform 79 mi sw. of Southwest Pass, Plaquemines Parish, LA);* F.W.B.S.F. *(Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa County, FL);* Green Canyon *(platform 76 mi s. of Terrebonne Parish, LA);* M.L. *(Millwood Lake, sw. AR);* N.N.W.R. *(Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. MS);* Petronius *(VK 786 platform 71 mi s. of Gulf Shores, Baldwin County, AL);* S.M.I. *(South Marsh Island 147 platform 80 mi sw. of St. Mary Parish, LA);* S.P. *(South Pass 89B platform 15 mi s. of Southwest Pass, Plaquemines Parish, LA);* T.N.W.R. *(Tallahatchie N.W.R., nw. MS);* W.P. *(Western Panhandle [westernmost three counties], FL);* * *(specimen to Louisiana State University).* States are usually identified only with the initial use of a place name.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Both rare for n. MS, Red-throated and **Pacific Loons** were at Sardis L., *Panola*, 18 Nov and 27–28 Nov, respectively (WMD). The fifth AR occurrence of the latter was documented 13 Nov in *Cleburne* (KN, LN, BV, ph.). Good numbers of Com. Loons were present inland in Nov, particularly at Pace Pt., *Henry*, TN, where 517 were counted 6 Nov (JRW, m.ob.); more than 300 Horned Grebes were impressive there 20 Nov (MAG et al.). An early Horned was spotted 3 Oct at Cross L., *Caddo*, LA (CL, KL). Far ahead of schedule was the Eared Grebe beginning 6 Aug at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, EC et al.); other notable reports included an early individual 8 Sep in *Baldwin*, AL (RAD, LRD), another in *Oktibbeha*, MS, 22 Sep

(TLS), and nine in *Caddo* 14 Nov (CL et al.). Two rare Western Grebes were in *Yell*, AR, 21–26 Nov (KN, LN).

With only seven prior AL records, at least 10 documented **Cory's Shearwaters** on seven dates 19 Aug–6 Oct were impressive (SJP, some v.t.); Louisiana offshore sightings were of two 30 Aug and one 5 Oct at Green Canyon (MJI) and one 3 Sep at Ewing Bank (BMM). It was also a good season for Greater Shearwaters: at least 10 were documented on as many days 18 Aug–13 Oct at Petronius (SJP, some v.t.), raising the number of AL records by more than 50%. Lone Greaters appeared on four days 15 Aug–30 Oct at S.P. (KB), with another 25 Sep at Green Canyon (MJI). Unidentified small shearwaters were at Petronius 19 and 25 Sep, and two were seen 1 Nov (SJP); another videotaped there 31 Oct (SJP) can be identified as an **Audubon's Shearwater,** representing the seventh AL record. Louisiana pelagic trips s. and sw. of the Mississippi R. mouth found one–two Audubon's-type shearwaters 12 Oct and an Audubon's 6 Nov (all DPM, DLD, SWC et al.); an unidentified small shearwater was seen 4 Sep at Ewing Bank (BMM). Shore-based observations are rare, so three Audubon's 13 Oct at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, and two there 20 Oct (both RAD), were surprising; there were only two prior W.P. records. An unidentified storm-petrel was late 4 Oct at Petronius (SJP).

For a first AL record, a spectacular ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** was discovered 30 Aug at Petronius (SJP, ph.). Masked Boobies are rare but regular in the n. Gulf; this fall pelagic observers recorded at least 40 birds 16 Aug–26 Nov off LA and AL. More unusual was the Brown Booby 9 Oct at S.P. (KB). Excellent numbers of migrating Am. White Pelicans were reported in n. MS, with peak counts of 2,225 in *Lafayette* 6 Nov and 2,100 in *Tate* 9 Nov (WMD); nearby in Memphis, 480 were tallied 2 Oct (JRW, MAG). Rare inland in AL, a maximum of 34 birds was

noted 31 Oct–26 Nov in *Limestone* (TAB, DB, HD, SWM et al.). Extremely unusual was a Brown Pelican 15 Oct–27 Nov at various locations along the Tennessee R. in n. AL (SW, TMH, TAB, SWM et al., ph.), furnishing the seventh inland state record.

The eighth for AR, a **Neotropic Cormorant** was discovered in *Lafayette* 11 Sep (KN, LN, CM); the careful tally (!) of 2,688 Neotropics in C.P. 21 Oct (KB) set a new LA high. Good numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were again noted inland, with a peak count of 3,000 in *Lafayette*, MS, 6 Nov (WMD). Notable concentrations of Great Egrets were reported in MS and LA, especially the 3,000 Greats, mixed with 6,000 Snowies, in C.P. 14 Sep (KB). Lingering at M.L., a Snowy Egret and three Little Blue Herons were noted 22 Nov (CM). White-faced Ibis is scarce in the Region outside LA; singles were identified 28 Aug in *Desha*, AR (KN, LN), 9 Sep in *Jackson*, MS (CD, AD, MP et al.), 29 Sep in *White*, AR (KN, LN), and in *Washington*, MS, 28 Aug (GC&SK).

Continuing a recent trend, Roseate Spoonbills put on a good show outside the s. LA stronghold, with eight records of 18 birds through 30 Sep in n. LA, MS, and AR. The annual Wood Stork invasion was only moderate in intensity, though 400 were seen 14 Aug in *Chicot* and *Desha*, AR (KN, LN). Occurrences where the species is rare included three in *Shelby*, TN, 19 Aug (JRW) and eight in n. *Baldwin* 26 Sep (BS).

WATERFOWL THROUGH LIMPKIN

The usual hodgepodge of probable summering waterfowl was noted in Aug, particularly in LA; species included Snow, Ross's, and Canada Geese, Gadwall, Mallard, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Duck. Rare in AR, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports included a pair with young 20 Aug (SS&ELL) and 23 adults 29 Aug (DA), both near Spirit L., *Lafayette*. The flock of 134 Gr. White-fronted Geese in *Dyer*, TN, 26 Nov (JRW) was noteworthy. A major flight of Snow Geese occurred with a cold front 14 Nov in the ne. portion of the Region; in a band extending from Pace Pt., TN, to Birmingham, AL, roughly 10,000 were noted that day (JRW, DJS, PDK, SWM et al.). A peppering of Ross's Geese is now expected in most parts of our area; the highest count submitted was of 22 birds in *Tunica*, MS, 25 Nov (JRW). An imm. Tundra Swan was a nice find 26 Nov at Reelfoot L., TN (JRW).

Returning this fall, the rare **Eurasian Wigeon** appeared at Wheeler N.W.R., *Morgan*, AL, 24 Nov–2 Dec (GEH, WDR, m.ob.). Another repeat performance was staged by the rare Cinnamon Teal at New Orleans 6 Nov+ (GO). Locally early was a N. Pintail at N.N.W.R. 25 Aug (TLS). Also ahead of schedule, and not thought to have summered, were a Canvasback 22 Sep, Redhead 21 Aug, and Ring-necked Duck 30 Sep, all in *Caddo* (CL et al.). Rare inland, a Black Scoter was present 18 Nov–3 Dec in *Oktibbeha* (TLS). The count of 296 Buffleheads 26 Nov in *Caddo* (CL, JT, KT) was unusual, as were over 1,000 Hooded Mergansers 20 Nov in *Madison*, MS (SA). Rare and early was a Com. Merganser 10 Oct in *Garland*, AR (SC, AD). A new AR maximum was provided by 175 Red-breasted Mergansers 20 Nov in *Yell* (KN, LN).

An aerial tally of 167 Swallow-tailed Kites in *George* and *Jackson*, MS, 11 Aug (JB, MW, JM) was impressive. More than 75 Mississippi Kites in *Autauga* 13 Aug (RRS) set a new AL high. An early N. Harrier was detected at T.N.W.R. 22 Aug (FB, JRW). Rare so far east, a Swainson's Hawk was studied at New Orleans 29 Nov (PHY). Returning 27 Nov to a favored spot in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (BF, PC) was the rare White-tailed Hawk. The only Rough-legged Hawk reported this autumn was from *Madison*, TN, 23 Nov (MAG). A rare and early Golden Eagle was found 24 Oct in *Crittenden*, AR (JRW); at least two were in a more regular site in *Henry* 14 Nov+ (JRW).

Yellow Rails are rarely detected beyond the rice fields of LA; two were flushed 25 Sep in *Lake*, TN (JRW, KM), another was seen 16 Oct in *Henry* (MAG), and two were spotted 23 Oct in *St. Francis*, AR (KN, LN, LA). Similarly hard to find, especially in fall, one or more Black Rails were observed 8–10 Oct at Dauphin I., AL (TAP, GLH, PK, m.ob.); a freshly-killed bird was found 16 Nov in New Orleans (JOC, TDC, MM). Three Soras at F.W.B.S.F. 14 Aug (DMW, AK) were early. Over 40,000 Am. Coots in *Caddo* 6 Nov (CL et al.) were unusually abundant for nw. LA. Providing a second record for TN and a first for the w. portion, a **Limpkin** was an exotic thrill 27 Jul–18 Sep in Hatchie N.W.R., *Haywood* (AW, RPF, m.ob., ph. JRW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Tardy Am. Golden-Plovers 21 Nov in both *Lowndes*, AL (LFG) and *Oktibbeha* (TLS) provided local departure records; another was found 24 Nov in *Iberville*, LA (DLD, SWC). Rare in the W.P., two Am. Oystercatchers were at Ft. Pickens 7 Sep (RAD). High counts of Black-necked Stilts along the Mississippi R. included 200+ birds 14 Aug in *Adams*, MS (MS, WP). Of many far-inland reports of Am. Avocet, most notable were 11 in *Boone*, AR, 24 Aug (J&ER), 26 birds 27 Oct in *Caddo* (CL), and eight in *Natchitoches*, LA, 31 Oct (CL). Difficult to find inland, single Willets were reported on 14 Aug. from w. TN (two; JRW, MAG et al.), n. LA (CL, JT), and e. AR (KN, LN, m.ob.); two other sightings took place through 8 Sept. in these locales. A concentration of 13 Upland Sandpipers in *Lowndes* 13 Aug (GDJ, GSA) furnished a fall inland maximum for AL. Rare away from the coast, and only the second for Alabama's Mountain Region, a Whimbrel was a surprise in *Shelby* 12 Sep (GJH, HHK, m.ob.). Scarce non-coastal Marbled Godwit sightings included up to three beginning 2 Aug at T.N.W.R. (FB et al.) and one near Shreveport, LA, 21 Aug (CL).

Ruddy Turnstones are unusual away from salt water; four were at T.N.W.R. 24 Aug (FB) and single birds were in *Shelby*, AL, 29 Aug (SWM) and at T.N.W.R. 10–16 Sep (FB). Of several inland reports of Sanderlings, most noteworthy were 15 individuals at M.L. 5 Sep (CM) and another, setting a new TN departure date, at Pace Pt. 20–21 Nov (MAG, JRW, m.ob.). Also tardy was a Semipalmated Sandpiper studied 30 Oct in *Dyer* (JRW). I received six reports of seven White-rumped Sandpipers, rare in fall; most unusual was one in *Baldwin* 28 Oct (GEH et al.), providing a late date for AL. Tarrying Baird's Sandpipers were in *Shelby*, TN, 2 Oct (JRW, MAG) and *Mobile*, AL, 7 Oct (SWM). Noteworthy reports of the uncommon Buff-breasted Sandpiper included two early arrivals 1 Aug in *Harrison*, MS (SJP), 19 birds 22 Aug at T.N.W.R. (FB, GC&SK), and a significantly late individual 21 Oct in *Baldwin* (BS). Always exciting, a **Ruff** was discovered 15 Oct at T.N.W.R. (FB, JRW, ph.) for one of the few MS records. Rare Red-necked Phalaropes were noted 10 Sep at T.N.W.R. (FB, ph.), 20–22 Sep in *White* (KN), and 10 Oct at S.M.I. (RLK, *).

Offshore observers tallied extraordinary numbers of Pomarine Jaegers this fall, particularly in Nov off LA. High counts were 72 birds 16 Nov at S.M.I. (RLK), 70 at Green Canyon 24 Nov (AWo), and an amazing 125 (!) at the latter location 25 Nov (AWo). Inland the species is rare, so two–three birds at Cross L. 3–21 Nov (CL, m.ob., ph.) were great finds, as was the Parasitic there 13–14 Nov (CL, m.ob., ph.). Another rare inland **Parasitic Jaeger** provided the seventh record for AR 5 Sep at M.L. (KN, LN, CM, MD, DA, ph.). The only offshore Parasitic

Only the species' third appearance in the Florida Panhandle, this White-crowned Pigeon was a shock 14 Aug 1999 in Walton. Photograph/Alan Knothe

noted was 4 Sep at S.P. (KB). A first for the W.P., a **Long-tailed Jaeger** was a shocker 9 Aug at Ft. Pickens (RAD).

Ahead of schedule, 28 Franklin's Gulls were at Cross L. 4 Oct, and an impressive 115 were there 3 Nov (both CL). Of several other Franklin's reports, most notable were five on the Mobile Causeway, AL, 5 Nov (SWM). Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become almost "ho-hum" in C.P., with a peak this fall of five birds 30 Oct (PW, CS). More unusual was an adult 21 Nov at Pace Pt. (JRW, m.ob.); at the same location, a rare Great Black-backed Gull was discovered 7 Nov (JRW). An ad. Kelp Gull was seen at the usual Chandeleur Is., LA, location 7 Sep (DLD, SWC); potential identification nightmares away from this site, a dozen birds thought to be Kelp ˜ Herring hybrids were noted that day. An alternate-plumaged ad. **Sabine's Gull** was a thrill 4 Sep at S.M.I. (RLK); fewer than nine records have been accepted in LA. Alabama's 13th Black-legged Kittiwake was spotted 14 Nov in w. *Colbert* (GNP, MA); another was seen 16 Nov at S.M.I. (RLK). Expected small numbers of Bridled Terns were noted far offshore AL and LA; one at Petronius 1 Nov (SJP) furnished a new AL late date.

PIGEONS THROUGH NUTHATCHES

For a third Regional and W.P. record, a **White-crowned Pigeon** was a prize 14 Aug in *Walton* (GB, DMW, AK, PB, ph.). Illustrating consolidation of forces, record counts of Eur. Collared-Doves were submitted: 200+ were seen 20 Oct in *Baldwin* (ALM, ADM) and 510 were at one site in *Jefferson*, LA, 30 Oct (PHY, JZ). Good numbers of White-winged Doves were again reported this fall, including many far offshore LA and AL. One 22 Nov in *Butler* (AM) was only the seventh for inland AL; two **White-winged Doves** beginning 26 Nov in Little River (DA, MMi, CM et al., v.t.) represented one of few AR records.

SA "I am that merry wanderer of the night" (W. Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream). Ever contemplate a pelagic owling trip? Maybe you should reconsider. Platform-based observers were amazed by vagrant owls this autumn. The lead bird, by all measures, was a Flammulated Owl 11 Oct at Green Canyon (MJI, ph.). This mite caused a frenzy as it tantalizingly flew past and disappeared; it was relocated after a long and exasperating search (and posting of a reward to workers on the platform!). The only accepted record for LA is from 1949. Though not in the same league, a Burrowing Owl was nevertheless a bizarre sight 120 mi offshore at Garden Banks, LA, 23 Oct (JRK). Perching on a beam, a cooperative Long-eared Owl caused a shock at Petronius 16 Oct (SJP, v.t.). The photogenic vagrant provided the first AL record since 1977. So off to sea we go in search of, uh, owls?

A Long-eared Owl, chased from a roost by crows, was a surprise 28 Nov in *Obion*, TN (JRW). An unexpected, and exhausted, visitor to Green Canyon 26–28 Nov was a Lesser Nighthawk (MJI, in-hand ph.). The first for MS, a **Green Violet-ear** was enjoyed 3–5 Oct in *De Soto* (RP, BB, CHB, m.ob., ph.). A rare Broad-billed Hummingbird appeared in *Iberville* 4–15 Nov (AG, MDy, LCB). Scarce, non-LA, Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were noted beginning 15 Sep in *Escambia* (BK), *Baldwin* (RRS, MBS, b.), *Jackson* (CD, JP, LE), and *Oktibbeha* (MC, TLS, RRS, m.ob., b., ph.), the last a first inland occurrence for MS. Arkansas' first **Calliope Hummingbird** was documented 19–21 Oct in *Sevier* (DA, PF, m.ob., b., ph.); others were located in *Lowndes*, MS, 31 Oct (J&DP), *Iberville* 11–22 Nov (SWC, DLD, MAS, ph.), and *Marshall*, AL, 29 Nov (RRS, MBS et al., b., ph.). Rare Broad-tailed Hummingbirds occurred in *Iberville* 13 Nov+ (DLD, SWC et al., ph.) and near Baton Rouge 21 Nov (LCB). Rufous Hummingbirds are scarce in TN; individuals were banded 31 Aug in *Wilson* (CAS, PM) and 24 Oct in *Tipton* (KBi, CAS, m.ob.). A rare Allen's Hummingbird was in Montgomery, AL, 7 Nov (RRS, MBS, RC, b., ph.).

SA startling first Regional occurrence, a male Ringed Kingfisher dominated the scene at Cross L. 20–28 Nov (C&SM, TD, JMc, m.ob., ph., v.t.). Raining gold on El Dorado, a male Tropical Parula was at the same site 27–28 Nov (C&SM, CL et al., ph.), providing a sixth record for LA. It seems likely these disparate species, probably with a similar point of origin in s. TX or e. Mexico, arrived under common circumstances. Perhaps conditions in s. areas played a role, but monthly climatic data from Brownsville, TX, are not revealing. It is tempting to link vagrancy to weather events; one problem with such correlations is uncertainty of arrival dates, as both birds could have been present for some time before detection. A low pressure system moved from e. TX to n. LA 31 Oct–1 Nov, with concomitant strong upper-level winds from the south and southwest; subsequent patterns were not as remarkable. Like so many extralimital occurrences, the basis is elusive.

Rare but regular in early fall, seven Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted 22 Aug–8 Sep in AL, se. LA, and w. TN. It was an excellent year for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Ft. Morgan, with a surprising 17 banded 3 Sep–2 Oct (DC et al.); singles were spotted 4 Sep and 2 Oct in *Shelby*, TN (JRW et al.). A female Vermilion Flycatcher, rare in the W.P., was discovered 30 Sep at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, LRD). The scarce Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared 23–24 Oct in C.P. (DPM, RDP, RLK, v.t.) and 14 Nov+ at F.W.B.S.F. (NG, KJ, m.ob., ph.). For a sixth LA occurrence, an ad. **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was a gem in C.P. 29 Sep (MeP, DLD, SWC, *). Rare in the Region, single

Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds were found 17 Sep at S.P. (KB) and 18 Sep in C.P. (SWC, DLD, *). A W. Kingbird was unusual in *White* 24 Aug (KN, LN). Noteworthy Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports included an early bird 28 Aug in *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD) and one in *Bolivar*, MS, 27 Sep (N&JCH).

Rare in AL, Bell's Vireos were banded at Ft. Morgan 12 and 26 Sep (DC, MDs et al., ph.); another unusual occurrence was in *Shelby*, TN, 24 Sep (JRW). A Blue-headed Vireo 30 Nov in *Lauderdale*, AL (TMH) was behind schedule. The Warbling Vireo is difficult to find in the se. part of the Region. Five were surprising 31 Aug–6 Oct at Ft. Morgan (DC, ALM, RRS et al., four b.); singles were rare 14 Sep in *Iberville* (SWC) and 26 Sep in *Marion*, AL (JJ). A tardy Philadelphia Vireo was in *Madison*, MS, 12 Nov (SA). Over 100 Horned Larks in *Lowndes* 6 Nov (TAP) represented a recent maximum for Alabama's coastal plain. In C.P. a massive passage of N. Rough-winged Swallows was witnessed 11 Oct, with estimates of 150,000–300,000 birds (JPK, KF); a similar, but lesser, movement of Barn Swallows was recorded there 30 Sep (JPK, KF), with numbers estimated at 20,000–60,000. A late Barn was at Cross L. 24 Nov (CL, MH). The Red-breasted Nuthatch 13 Aug in *Putnam*, TN (RWS) was early.

WRENS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare away from the w. edge of the Region, Bewick's Wrens were good finds 2 Oct in *Colbert* (MA, GNP) and 17 Oct at Memphis (JRW). An early Sedge Wren was at F.W.B.S.F. 18 Sep (DMW, VS). Excellent numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported, with early birds 13 Oct at Ft. Morgan (DC et al., b.) and 17 Oct in *Harrison* (SJP). Setting new local arrival records, a Veery was banded at Ft. Morgan 30 Aug (DC et al.) and a Swainson's Thrush appeared 6 Sep in *Oktibbeha* (TLS, MHS). Rare in most of our territory, a Sprague's Pipit was in New Orleans 21 Nov (PHY, DPM, JZ) and three were discovered 27 Nov in *Prairie*, AR (GL).

A Blue-winged Warbler 28 Oct in *St. Tammany*, LA (GO, DaC) and a Golden-winged 12 Oct at Ft. Morgan (DC et al., b.) were late. Decidedly rare, the recessive-hybrid Lawrence's Warbler was in *Iberville* 21–26 Sep (SWC, *). Earlier than usual, a Tennessee Warbler was at N.N.W.R. 27 Aug (TLS). Nashville Warblers at both ends of the usual schedule were noted at N.N.W.R. 9 Sep (TLS) and in New Orleans 21–24 Nov (DPM). Rare in autumn, Cape May Warblers were observed in *Lauderdale*, TN, 12 Sep (JRW) and at Petronius 25 Sep and 30 Sep–2 Oct (SJP, one ph.). A Black-throated Blue Warbler, uncommon in fall, arrived early 27 Aug in *St. Tammany* (WC, ph.). Extremely rare for AL, an Audubon's Warbler appeared 12 Oct at Petronius (SJP). A Blackburnian Warbler 31 Oct in *Iberville* (DLD) was tardy.

Providing a new TN departure date, a Prairie Warbler was at Nashville 7 Nov (CAS, PhC, KC); another lingering Prairie was noted in *Jefferson Davis* 26 Nov (BF, PC). The Palm Warbler 22 Aug in *Red River*, LA (CL, RJB) was exceptionally early, and a Bay-breasted Warbler at N.N.W.R. 9 Sep (TLS) also was ahead of the pack. A Blackpoll Warbler, rare in autumn, was at Dauphin I. 9 Oct (JKS, v.t.); at Ewing Bank, two appeared 12 Oct and another 27 Oct (BMM). Seven Cerulean Warblers at Petronius 31 Aug (SJP) set a new AL coastal maximum for fall. A lingering Ovenbird was spotted 20 Nov in *Prairie* (TS). Good numbers of the skulking Mourning Warbler were reported. Ten banded birds were exceptional at Ft. Morgan 31 Aug–30 Sep (DC et al., ph.); one arrived at Petronius 28 Aug (SJP) and another was rare at F.W.B.S.F. 7 Sep (DMW). Seven were spotted in LA through 9 Oct, including four at Grand Isle 29 Aug (DPM). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Green Canyon 5 Sep (RLW) furnished Louisiana's ninth record. Early Wilson's Warblers included birds 4 Sep in *Madison*, AL (DR&RC) and 7 Sep in the Chandeleur Is. (DLD, SWC).

Two rare W. Tanagers were observed in the W.P., at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, 15 Aug (RAD, LRD) and in *Okaloosa* 1 Sep (CP). Spotted Towhees are tough to find in the Region, so one in C.P. 27 Nov (PHY et al.) was significant. Clay-colored Sparrows are expected in low numbers each fall along the coast, where there were 12 reports of 14 birds beginning as early as 7 Sep in the Chandeleur Is. (SWC). More unusual, a Clay-colored was in *Oktibbeha* 6-12 Oct. (TLS, m.ob.) for a 3rd inland MS record, and single birds were spotted 9 Oct. in *Cleburne*, AR (KN, LN) and 10 Oct at M.L. (DA, CM, ph.). An early Vesper Sparrow was seen 18 Sep in *Okaloosa* (LF, LW). Eight Lark Sparrows in New Orleans 10 Sep (PHY) represented an unusually high tally; an immature 30 Sep–2 Oct in *Lee*, AL (GEH) was locally rare and tardy. A Henslow's Sparrow 12 Oct at Dauphin I. (DR&RC) provided a new AL arrival date, while a rare n. AL sighting occurred 21 Nov in *Marion* (JJ). Three Le Conte's Sparrows were unprecedented as early as 7 Oct on the Mobile Causeway (RA&LBR). Tallies of 12 Le Conte's 20 Nov in *Henry* (MAG, m.ob.) and six beginning 21 Nov in *Lauderdale*, AL (PDK et al.) were impressive for the ne. part of the Region. A good find inland, two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were in *Lake* 25 Sep (JRW).

At least 12 Lapland Longspurs 21 Nov in *Lowndes* (LFG, CTS, P&RJ) supplied a new early record for Alabama's inland coastal plain and the first in decades. A **Chestnut-colored Longspur** caused a tizzy at Ft. Pickens 31 Oct–2 Nov (DH, PB, m.ob., ph.), furnishing a first W.P. and third FL record. The **Snow Bunting** studied at close range in *Dallas* 17 Nov (SER) represented a first for AL. Rare in the W.P., an imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak was a treat at Gulf Breeze 17 Sep (LRD, RAD). Over 700 Indigo Buntings in one field set a new AL maximum 11 Nov in *Covington* (CTS, PS). A Painted Bunting lingered as late as 22 Nov in *Iberville* (SWC, DLD). Bobolinks, uncommon in fall, were noted to 7 Nov at S.P. (KB) and 11 Nov in *Covington* (CTS, PS), the latter establishing an inland AL departure date. Of several reports of the rare Yellow-headed Blackbird, most notable were males 11 Sep at T.N.W.R. (GC&SK), 12 Oct at Dauphin I. (JKS, v.t.), and 27 Nov in *Lauderdale*, TN (MAG). An early Rusty Blackbird was observed 20 Oct in *Iberville* (SWC). Unusual for fall, two–three Shiny Cowbirds were present 15–26 Aug at Grand Isle, LA (DPM, PW et al.) and three were nearby in *Lafourche* 16 Oct (PW, CS). Late orioles included an Orchard in C.P. 22 Oct (RLK) and a Baltimore near Baton Rouge 18 Nov (KF, SG). With only 10 previous LA records, the Scott's Oriole 13 Nov in *Iberville* was an unexpected treat (SWC, DLD, *). An early Purple Finch was spotted 26 Sep in *Putnam*, TN (RWS).

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The Region experienced seasonable conditions in August and Sepember, but October and November were unusually mild and dry. Only northern regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan received normal precipitation; Alberta had to deal with forest and range fires in October! By the end of the period much open water remained in the south and the ground was essentially snow-free. Numerous waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds lingered, while passerines departed generally on schedule. However, those that did remain often survived beyond expectation.

Abbreviations: B.N.H.S. *(Brandon Nat. Hist. Soc., Brandon, MB);* I.B.S. *(Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB);* L.M.L. *(Last Mountain L., SK);* Mt. L. *(Mt. Lorette, AB);* O.H.M. *(Oak Hammock Marsh, Manitoba);* S.R.V. *(Sheep River Valley, AB).*

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Alberta reported four Red-throated Loons between 12 Sep and 10 Nov; more unexpected was one at Victoria Beach, MB, 9 Oct (RKo). Four Pacific Loons were on Barrier L., AB, 3 Oct (J&MM); singles were at Mt. L. 25 Oct (PSh) and at Seebe Dam, AB, 11 Nov (J&MM). Rarest of the loons was a Yellow-billed at Morley, AB, 11 Nov (J&MM). A Great Egret at Innisfail, AB, 1–21 Aug was undocumented (m.ob.). Four Great Egrets at Whitewater L., MB, 22 Aug (CCt, B.N.H.S.) increased to 11 by 30 Aug (AW et al.), with three lingering until 26 Sep (B.N.H.S.). At Langruth, MB, another 12 were found 2 Sep (L&RJ). Cattle Egrets also congregated at Whitewater L., peaking 6 Sep at 47 (G&SG et al.); about 40 "small egrets" near Langruth 1 Sep were likely the same species (*fide* HdH). A late Cattle Egret was at O.H.M. 18 Oct (PG). Rounding out the wader bonanza at Whitewater L., up to five White-faced Ibises were seen 22–30 Aug (CCt, B.N.H.S., m. obs.). Botulism claimed a sixth bird 23 Aug (*fide* CCt).

About 60 Gr. White-fronted Geese at O.H.M. 11 Nov were late (RKo), as was one at Calgary 18 Nov (MH). Concentrations of 100,000 to 200,000 Snow Geese at various locations in sw. MB and s. SK between late Sep and early Nov reflect how successful the species is (CCt, T&RWi, WH, PSa, DV). The best count of Ross's Geese was 3,200 at L.M.L. 7 Oct (WH) and rare blue-morph birds were noted 10 Oct at Radisson L., SK (BK) and 14 Oct at Buck L., SK (FL). A juv. **Mute Swan** at Stony Mountain 23 Oct was about the fifth for Manitoba (GH, CCs). Trumpeter Swans peaked at 300+ at Taylorville, AB, 25 Oct–7 Nov (T&DD).

Concentrations of ducks included 10,000 Gadwall and 10,000 Green-winged Teal at Whitewater L. 20 Sep (AW) and 900 juv. Ring-necked Ducks near Irricana, AB, in August (TK). In contrast, observers in Saskatchewan (BL) and sw. Manitoba (CCt) commented on the steady decline in numbers of staging L. Scaup. A Harlequin Duck was a good find at Pine Falls, MB, 7 Nov (RZ). From 26 Sep–30 Oct at least 45 Surf Scoters were noted in Alberta, including 26 at Chain Lakes 2 Oct (TK). Eight were found in Saskatchewan (BL et al.) and two in Manitoba (GH, CCs et al.). Only two Black Scoters were reported, at Cold L., AB,

10 Nov (FW) and L.M.L. 11 Nov (BL). November Long-tailed Duck sightings came from Calgary and Taber, AB (LB), and Pine Falls (ACs et al.) and St. Ambroise, MB (AW). At least two Barrow's Goldeneyes were at L.M.L. 31 Oct–6 Nov (BL, DV).

An Osprey near Minnedosa, MB, 18 Nov was spectacularly late (CCt). There were numerous November reports of N. Harriers in Alberta and at O.H.M.; a female at the latter was captured by a Bald Eagle 19 Nov (BCa). Migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks peaked at 107 at S.R.V. 9 Oct (RD, WS) and at 120 at Whytewold, MB, 10 Oct (MQ). A Broad-winged Hawk at Mt. L. 7 Nov was very late (*fide* PSh), as were Ferruginous Hawks at Govenlock, SK, 7 Nov and between Swift Current and Rosetown, SK, 22 Nov (WH). The latter were attracted by late above-ground Richardson's Ground Squirrel activity. Early single Rough-legged Hawks arrived at Shepard, AB, 29 Aug (MH) and Calgary 8 Sep (MBr); 146 passed S.R.V. 12 Oct (WS) and dozens stayed into Dec at O.H.M. (m.ob.). The Sep–Nov Golden Eagle tally at Mt. L. was 3,466, the second-lowest fall count there since detailed surveys began in 1992 (PSh et al.).

COOTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Three thousand Am. Coots crowded a slough near Chestermere L., AB, 20 Sep (TK). Most noteworthy of a stunning number of lingering shorebirds were an Am.

Golden-Plover at Namaka L., AB, 13 Nov (MH), two Am. Avocets at Whitewater L. 31 Oct (T&RWi) and three at Reed L., SK, 18 Nov (WH), a Marbled Godwit at Chaplin L., SK, 17 Oct (WH), a Least Sandpiper at Chaplin L. 18 Nov (WH), a Long-billed Dowitcher at Reed L. 18 Nov (WH), and two Com. Snipes near Cedoux, SK, 24 Nov (CB). Notable gatherings included 600 Am. Avocets at Whitewater L. 20 Sep (AW), 31 Long-billed Curlews at Bindloss, AB, 1 Aug (PH), a peak of 14 Western Sandpipers at High River, AB, 1 Sep (MH), 10,000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Whitewater L. 20 Sep (AW), and 800 Wilson's Phalaropes with 1,300 Red-necked Phalaropes at High River 1 Aug (MH). The only rarity was a Purple Sandpiper at Button Bay, near Churchill, MB, 17 Oct (DF).

A Parasitic Jaeger at Grand Beach, MB, 6 Nov was the latest of six reported across the Region (MW, Manitoba Naturalists Society party). All three provinces had late-Nov Bonaparte's Gulls. A California Gull 10 Aug was the fourth or fifth for Churchill (BCh) and two at Calgary 26 Nov were late (MH). The first **Black-legged Kittiwake** in the Calgary area since 1982 was found on a roadside at Shepard after a violent storm 11 Aug (ACe); it died the next day. Another bird, at Elk Island N.P., AB, 23 Oct was not documented (Edmonton Bird Club).

Eurasian Collared-Doves reached the Region: two frequented a Regina, SK, feeder late Sep+ (IT et al.). Two in Weyburn, SK, since Apr were not identified until 18 Nov (JW, CB, MBa). How hardy will they prove to be? A Barn Owl at Weyburn 20 Oct was the thirteenth for Saskatchewan (DG). The only N. Hawk Owl sighting in Manitoba was near Brandon 16 Nov (JD, KM); there were eight in Alberta 26 Sep+ (BP et al.). Great Gray Owls were locally prominent in Alberta, particularly at S.R.V. (WS, RWe, RD). The only bright spot in a dismal Com. Nighthawk flight was a total of 72 at Dinosaur P.P., AB, 17 Aug (RD). A Vaux's Swift provided the first fall record at Mt. L. 6 Sep (PSh); nine passed S.R.V. 9 Sep (WS). If accepted, a **White-throated Swift** at Stevesville 5–6 Sep, presumed to be the same bird seen at Dinosaur P.P. 22 June, would be only the second for Alberta (PM, m.ob.). A Hairy Woodpecker at Dymond L. 27 Oct was the third of the year for the Churchill area (DF), where the only previous report was prior to 1845!

PASSERINES

A late *Myiarchus* flycatcher in Winnipeg 17 Oct was reported as a Great Crested (RF). N. Shrikes were prominent: Alberta had 23 birds, Saskatchewan six, and Manitoba 18+, the earliest being near Patricia Beach, MB, 25 Sep (RS). A late Warbling Vireo was at S.R.V. 2 Oct (WS, RWe). A minor incursion of Gray Jays was noted in se. Manitoba, with reports from Beausejour, Kleefeld, La Barriere Park and Winnipeg (m.ob.). Ten thousand Horned Larks along trails in pasture land near Consul, SK, 7 Nov left the observer wondering how many went unseen on the snow-free ground (WH). A good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noted in Manitoba and Saskatchewan; e.g., 52 were seen on 27 dates 2 Aug–11 Oct at Stonewall, MB (KG).

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in Calgary 13 Sep would be Alberta's fourth, if accepted (B&TG). Up to two Townsend's Solitaires were at L.M.L. (AS), plus singles at Hadashville (ACr) and Winnipeg, MB (L&RJ), all in Oct. One Varied Thrush was in Regina 14 Oct (TR), another at Beaconia, MB, 23 Oct (RKo). A Gray Catbird at Dymond L. 19 Oct was both far north and late (DF). Also late were lone Am. Pipits at S.R.V. 5 Nov (RWe) and Thompson, MB, 8 Nov (BZ). Bohemian Waxwings arrived early: one was banded in Calgary 10 Aug (*fide* LV) and 15 were at Mt. L. 2 Sep (JS). On 27–28 Oct, 2,090 including a flock of 1,200 passed S.R.V. (WS,RWe).

A Summer Tanager was photographed at St. Pierre, MB, 10–11 Nov (RL, RT). A Spotted Towhee in Winnipeg 18 Sep was reported without details (HT). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at I.B.S. 18 and 21 Sep was the third for the site (JR, LV, RWe). Under review by the Alberta Bird Records Committee is a probable Dark-eyed Junco x White-throated Sparrow hybrid in Calgary 8–20 Oct (RB et al.). A **Gray-headed Junco** at a Winnipeg feeder since 9 Nov was Manitoba's third (AHu et al.). Tardy were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Victoria Beach 21 Nov (RKo, GG) and a Bobolink at O.H.M. 10 Oct (RKo). Com. Redpolls made a good showing across the region from early October on; an estimated 75,000 passed S.R.V. before a blizzard 31 Oct (WS, RWe).

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): C. Anderson, M. Bailey (MBa), R. Barclay, L. Bennett, C. Bjorklund, M. Breiteneder (MBr), B. Carey (BCa), A. Chartier (ACr), B. Chartier (BCh), R. Clarke, A. Cole (ACe), A. Courcelles (ACs), C. Curtis (CCs), C. Cuthbert (CCt), H. den Haan, R. Dickson, T.& D. Dolman, J. Dubois, D. Fast, K. Gardner, W. Gierulski, B.& T. Goulet, G. Grieef, P. Grieef, S. Grieef, D. Gutfriend, L. Hancock, W. Harris, **M. Harrison,** A. Hill (AHi), G. Holland, P. Horch, A. Huebert (AHu), L.& R. Jansson, R. Koes (RKo), B. Korol, T. Korolyk, F. Lahrman, R. Letourneau, **B. Luterbach,** P. Marklevitz, J.& L. Marshall, J.& M. McDonald, K. Monson, B. Parsons, A. Pelzer, J. Pilny, M. Quigley, J. Riddell, T. Riffel, P. Sargent (PSa), P. Sherrington (PSh), A. Smith, W. Smith, R. Staniforth, J. Steeves, R. Tone, H. Toom, I. Traquair, D. Vetter, **L. Vogt,** M. Waldron, A. Walleyn, R. Wershler (RWe), J. Whitell, F. Wiley, T.& R. Will (T&RWi), B. Wilson, G. Yaki, R. Zach, B. Zimmer.

SA There were a lot of unusual warbler reports, both rarities (especially in w. Alberta) and late individuals. Numerous Nashville Warblers were reported in Calgary, where they are usually rare. Hawkwatchers turned up the second Magnolia Warbler for Mt. L. 26 Aug (PSh) and first for S.R.V. 29 Aug (WS, RWe, RD), the first Cape May Warbler for S.R.V. 18 Sep (RD), and the first Black-throated Green Warbler for Mt. L. 4 Sep (PSh). Rare anywhere in the Region, Black-throated Blue Warblers were photographed 13 Oct at Tilley, AB (CA) and 14 Nov–1 Dec+ at Medicine Hat, AB (J&LM), plus a third bird in Calgary from 21 Nov+ (LH, AHi). Also noteworthy were a Blackburnian Warbler at I.B.S. 1 Sep (JR, LV) and four Bay-breasted Warblers in s. Alberta 28 Aug–17 Sep.

Latest of the late were: a N. Parula at Saskatoon, SK 14 Nov (WG); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Calgary 16 Nov (JP, AP, GY); a Magnolia Warbler also at Calgary 26 Nov (RC); single Cape May Warblers at Tyvan, SK, 5 Nov (BL) and St. Adolphe, MB, 9 Nov (ACs); a Yellow-rumped Warbler at Victoria Beach 21 Nov (RKo); a Bay-breasted Warbler at Saskatoon 30 Oct (WG); an Ovenbird at Winnipeg 10 Oct (GH); and Wilson's Warblers at Richmond, SK, 15 Oct (BK) and Calgary 17 Oct (BW).

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

northern great plains

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It was the third mild fall in a row, with November the warmest in North Dakota since 1899. The temperature topped 70°F several times in North Dakota that month. Precipitation was heavy in some areas early in the season, but rains ceased and by the end of the season it was dry in some areas. Most areas had not had snow by the end of the period and a few tractors were still in the fields in early December. All larger water areas were open at the end of the period, so lingering waterfowl were widespread. With the mild weather migrants were well distributed and many commented that, except for numerous late species, the season was rather uneventful. Notable observations included Long-billed Murrelet and Northern Wheater in Montana, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Lesser Goldfinch in North Dakota, and Golden-crowned Sparrow in South Dakota.

Conventions: Sightings marked with a † are subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS

Two Pacific Loons were noted in Montana, one 26 Oct on Nelson Res. (DP†) and another 14–19 Nov at Eureka Res. (JN, MS†). There are now 20+ records for the state. An indication of the warm season, Pied-billed, Horned, Eared, and Western Grebes were all tallied on a trip through north-central N. Dakota 28 Nov (REM).

The latest on record for S. Dakota, an Am. Bittern was in *Charles Mix* 22 Nov (LAS). Great Egrets continue to pioneer, with 15 in *Ward*, ND, 22 Aug, the largest flock ever recorded there (REM). Several record-late waders were seen in the Dakotas. In N. Dakota, a Snowy Egret was in *Sargent* 3 Nov, six Cattle Egrets were in *Dickey* 30 Nov, and three White-faced Ibises were in *Dickey* 23 Nov (DK). In S. Dakota, eight Cattle Egrets were in *Clark* 24 Nov (BKH), a Green Heron was in *Charles Mix* 26 Nov (LAS), and White-faced Ibises were in *Brown* 30 Nov (SLS). Rare waders included a Little Blue Heron in *Sargent*, ND, 22 Aug (EEF, RGF†), and two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in *Brown*, SD, 6 Aug (DAT).

Ross's Geese appear to comprise a larger percentage of white geese in the past few years. Again this year, Snow and Ross's Geese stayed late in Canada and many overflew the region in the last half of Nov. Duck production in N. Dakota was the highest since counts began in 1955 and was 220% higher than the long-term average (NDGF). Three Surf Scoters were early 11 Sep at Grand Forks, ND (DOL). Casual in S. Dakota, a Black Scoter was in *Deuel*, 7 Oct (BKH†). Good peaks of 2,220 Buffleheads and 2,325 Com. Goldeneyes were tallied at Devil's L., ND, 11 Nov (DOL). North Dakota's twelfth Barrow's Goldeneye was studied at Hettinger 25 Nov (DAG, CG†). Providing the earliest record for S. Dakota, a Red-breasted Merganser was in *Brown* 21 Aug (DAT).

HAWKS THROUGH MURRELETS

By November only single N. Harriers are usually seen in N. Dakota, but this year they were common, with good numbers still present at the end of the period. Rough-legged Hawks were common in the Bowdoin area at the end of the period (DP, PG) and *50* were tallied in ne. N. Dakota 12 Nov for a new fall peak in the state (EEF). A Whooping Crane was early 18 Sep in *Ward*, ND (EH) and the state's latest was noted near Crosby during Thanksgiving week (ME).

Usually gone by late Jul/early Aug, 40–50 Mountain Plovers were in *Phillips*, MT 29 Sep (JG) and one remained on the Ft. Belknap Reservation until the first week of Oct (RS). Good numbers of Hudsonian Godwits were noted in N. Dakota, with a peak of 27 at Minot 5 Aug (REM). A rare fall migrant in S. Dakota, one was in *Brookings* 4 Sep (JSP). A Western Sandpiper 12 Oct in Grand Forks provided only the third October record for N. Dakota (EEF†). North Dakota's third **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was documented 25 Aug in *Richland* (BSM, SM†).

A jaeger sp. was noted 20 Nov in *Hughes*, SD (JSP, RFS†) and N. Dakota's sixth **Long-tailed Jaeger** was studied 6 Sep at Lostwood N.W.R. (*fide* BM†). Unusually large numbers of gulls were still present in N. Dakota at the end of the period; Ring-billeds and Herrings still present at Fargo were the latest ever for the area (GEN). The earliest ever for N. Dakota, a Sabine's Gull was at Grand Forks 8 Sep (DOL). The previously reported **Arctic Terns** at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, were still courting 3 Aug (SD). A **Long-billed Murrelet** seen at close range 5 Aug at Kistner Hardy Res., *Gallatin*, MT (BS†) would furnish the first or second record for the state, depending on a re-evaluation of an earlier Marbled Murrelet record that suggests this species.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** invasion continues, with N. Dakota's second documented at Grand Forks 4–7 Sep (DOL, EEF†). The individual previously reported in Malta, MT was last seen 5 Oct (JF, GF) and S. Dakota's seventh record was provided by one in *Potter* 5–6 Aug (DS†). A Barred Owl at Newton Hills, *Lincoln*, SD, was a first for that area (RFS). Seven N. Saw-whet Owl reports for the Dakotas were more than usual.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher was late 27 Sep in *Minnehaha*, SD (MJM). Rarely identified in fall in S. Dakota, two calling Alder Flycatchers were in *Union* 12 Aug (DS). A Western Kingbird 6 Oct in Hettinger, ND, provided the second-latest record for the state and the second October record (DAG, CG). North Dakota's earliest-ever N. Shrike was at Fargo 13 Sep (DPW). The status of Blue-headed Vireo in Montana is still uncertain, but one was banded at Westby 31 Aug (MS, JM†). A Com. Raven was early at Fargo, ND, 6 Oct (KRC). Providing only the third record for S. Dakota e. of the Missouri R., a Gray Jay was in *Brown* 20 Oct–16 Nov (SLS†). South Dakota's latest ever Purple Martin was noted 9 Oct in *Sanborn* (RGR).

Unusual e. of the Missouri R., a Rock Wren was in *Edmunds*, SD, 5 Sep (JDW). Eleven Winter Wren reports from N. Dakota spanned 14 Sep–1 Nov. Not only was this total higher than usual, but many were from the cen. and w. areas of the state

where the species is usually rare. If accepted, a **Northern Wheatear** in *Sweetgrass*, MT, 30 Oct would provide the first state record (DJR, JR†). A Townsend's Solitaire was far e. in *Kingsbury*, SD, 10 Nov (RGR). Early for S. Dakota, Bohemian Waxwings were in *Stanley* 23 Oct (JSP, RFS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration was notable in Montana this fall. There was a good movement through Freezeout L., with at least four Palm Warblers 12–19 Sep (MS). At least 16 species were noted at Westby in late Aug/early Sep, including Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Mourning, and Canada, all rare or casual in Montana but probably regular at Westby (MS†). Casual in fall in S. Dakota, a Blue-winged Warbler was in *Lincoln* 1 Sep (MJM). A MacGillivray's Warbler, casual away from the Black Hills, was banded at Pierre, SD, 21 Sep (FIB).

A Scarlet Tanager was far w. in *Pennington*, SD, 20 Sep (JLB). A hybrid Eastern Spotted Towhee was at Minot, ND, 13 Oct (REM). If accepted, a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in *Meade*, SD, 5 Nov would provide only the second record for the state (AKB†). A rare migrant in the Dakotas, McCown's Longspurs were noted 27 Sep in *Bowman*, ND (MLJ), in *Fall River*, SD, 7 Oct (RAP), and in *Custer*, SD, 18 Oct (MMM). Five Smith's Longspur reports from the Dakotas spanned 2–23 Oct. Latest on record for S. Dakota, a Blue Grosbeak was noted in *Lincoln* 2 Oct (MJM). Indigo Buntings were late 8 Oct in *Cass*, ND (DPW), and in *Lawrence*, SD, 10 Oct (VDF).

A Great-tailed Grackle in *Turner* 26 Nov provided the latest record for SD (LS). Seven White-winged Crossbill reports were tallied for N. Dakota and Montana, all in Nov and involving only one–three individuals per report. Com. Redpolls made a good showing and Hoary Redpolls were already in Montana and N. Dakota by mid-Nov, with the earliest Hoary in *Grand Forks*, ND, 10 Nov (EEF). Providing the third record for N. Dakota, a pair of "green-backed" **Lesser Goldfinches** came to a feeder in Minot 5 Aug (JK, *fide* REM†). Three Evening Grosbeak reports from N. Dakota were all at the e. edge of the state.

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southern great plains

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It is difficult to quickly summarize patterns of fall bird occurrences for the Region except to say that it was good—even darn good. This column is much too short to include all specific examples for oversummering ducks, the many early and tardy migrants, or all of the routinely observed but rare species. But the Region maintains the excitement of being a continental hiatus. That may be the season's special note, along with the graces of multi-annual benevolent weather continuing to help populations of marsh and water birds. If there was some contrast to good news, it comes for populations breeding to the north. Numbers of Greater Scaup, Peregrine Falcons, Piping Plovers, and Sabine's Gulls took a lull in reporting from previous good seasons. Time will judge the nature of these pauses.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms *(Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS);* Hefner *(Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK);* McConaughy *(L. McConaughy, Keith Co., NE);* L. Ogallala *(L. Ogallala, Keith Co., NE);* Quivira *(Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS).*

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Pacific Loons, once dubbed exceptional, appeared at *Scotts Bluff*, NE, 16 Oct (SJD); at least 11 more were reported in Nebraska through 23 Nov (SJD, LR, RH), with two others in *Kingman*, KS, 30 Oct (CG) and two in *Noble/Pawnee*, OK, 24 Nov (JWA, JSi). Most surprising was an imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** photographed on shore at Hefner 12 Aug (JAG, JWA). Although not observed again, it may have been the same individual present the previous winter and spring. An imm. Red-necked Grebe was documented at L Ogallala 6 and 19 Nov (SJD); an ad. was observed in *Tulsa* 23 Nov (JWA). Continuing an astounding trend of increase over the past decade were the 35,000 W. Grebes estimated at McConaughy 26 Sep (SJD). Carrying capacity may be a more appropriate concern in these times. Surprisingly, reports away from w. Nebraska included only four singles in e. Nebraska and Oklahoma. Eleven Clark's Grebe were at McConaughy 26 Sep (SJD), with two 15 Aug and up to three 26 Sep–18 Nov in *Scotts Bluff*, NE (SJD). Double-crested Cormorant numbers are also burgeoning, with 5,000+ in *Harlan*, NE, 5–16 Oct

(GH, WH). In some places fishermen now view cormorants suspiciously, creating their own set of conflicts. A Neotropic Cormorant at Cheyenne Bottoms 24 Sep (DK, WC, DV) was the only one reported.

A remarkable count for Nebraska was the 130 Great Egrets in *Harlan* 24 Sep (GH, WH). A **Reddish Egret** reported at Cheyenne Bottoms 22 Sep (RK) would constitute the first for Kansas if accepted by the K.B.R.C. Tricolored Herons again summered in *Alfalfa*, OK (AW), remaining until 3 Oct (SM). Others of this rare vagrant were observed in *McCurtain*, OK, 31 Aug (DA) and at Cheyenne Bottoms 20 Sep (RK). The imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Lancaster*, NE, 1 and 14 Aug (LE) was the most northerly for the Region this season. White Ibis numbers built to 51 in *McCurtain*, OK, 31 Aug (BH). Only one other was reported outside *McCurtain*, that in *Muskogee*, OK, 10 Aug (RR et al.). Other vagrant ciconiids included a Roseate Spoonbill 23 Aug–22 Sep in *Alfalfa*, OK, (AW, JWA) and up to 28 Wood Storks in *McCurtain*, OK, 2 Aug–13 Sep (BH et al.).

While the origins might be questioned, the two ad. **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** seen in *Clay* 2–3 Aug (JGJ, GC, BCa) and relocated 21–28 Aug (JS, WRS, m.ob) represent the second documented record for Nebraska. Adding to sentiments of wild status were adults with 12 downy ducklings photographed in *Kingfisher*, OK, during Sep (MK, FC et al.), the second confirmed nesting for Oklahoma. Perhaps adding to the confusion were the 14 to 16 observed in a more avicultural setting in Tulsa 13 Sep–1 Oct (MK, LU). Even more exotic was a **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** noted 23 Sep at Cheyenne Bottoms (MR). A **Black Brant** was in *Scotts Bluff* 23 Nov (SJD), only the second documented for Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Accompanying the surge of incredible increases in Snow Goose populations, 150,000 Gr. White-fronted Geese were estimated at Quivira 9 Nov (*fide* LM). Trumpeter Swans were reported only from w. Nebraska, perhaps a condition of the mild weather.

An excellent count of 515 Canvasback was made in *Garden*, NE, 6 Nov (SJD), a hopeful sign for this hunter's delicacy. Reports of scoters were a little more scant. Among those of Surf Scoters were an ad. male 16 Oct in *Clark*, KS, (SP, CH), two basic-plumaged birds in *Lancaster*, NE, 19 Oct (JS), two in *Geary*, KS, 11 Nov (CO), and two at L. Ogallala 19 Nov (SJD). A White-winged Scoter was in *Lancaster* rather early 30 Oct (LE). Still the rarest of the scoters, two basic-plumaged Blacks were in *Scotts Bluff* 16 Oct (SJD), a rather early date, with two at L. Ogallala 19 Nov (SJD). A male Barrow's Goldeneye at L. Ogallala 19 Nov (SJD) was the only report for this rare visitor. Com. Mergansers flocks did not build at McConaughy this season, a sign of more n. distribution. Only a small handful of Red-breasted Mergansers appeared in the Region (*fide* WRS, LM, JWA).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

N. Goshawks were first noted 31 Oct in *Otoe*, NE, (LF, CF) and *Buffalo*, NE, (GL) with only one other report, an adult in *Knox/Cedar*, NE, 27 Nov (BFH). Wandering afield were a Red-shouldered Hawk at Quivira 16 Nov (CG, TH) and Broad-winged Hawks in *Morton*, KS, 18 Sep (MR, SS) and *Cimarron*, OK, 19 Sep (JSt et al.). Golden Eagles wandered e. to *Washington*, NE, 26 Oct (JGJ), *Delaware*, OK, 31 Oct (TM), and *Seward*, NE, 17 Nov (JG). Merlins are being reported far more often in recent years, with 26 from Nebraska alone (*fide* WRS). Perhaps surprisingly in this flurry, only two Peregrine Falcons were reported from Nebraska (*fide* WRS), and three from Oklahoma (*fide* JL, JM). Unusual for date was a Prairie Falcon 27 Aug in *Kingfisher* (JWA).

This is certainly a good time for rails in the Region. A Black Rail was salvaged in *Beaver*, OK, 9 Sep (ED), while others were noted late at Quivira 10 Oct (SM) and even later 23 Oct in *Sedgwick*, KS (CG). King Rails were observed 13 Oct and 17 and 24 Nov in *McCurtain*, OK (DA et al.). Virginia Rails with half-grown downy young were seen in *Cherry*, NE, 29 Aug (JS), a rather late date for downy young. Several possible breeders were noted in s.-cen. Nebraska 15–22 Aug (JGJ). The 17 Soras reported in s.-cen. Nebraska during Aug also imply breeding (JGJ, LB), although no direct evidence was forthcoming. Whooping Cranes traipsed central Kansas 18 Oct–9 Nov (*fide* LM). Rather far w. of its usual migration corridor was a single Whooping Crane with Sandhill Cranes 17 Oct in *Scotts Bluff* (*fide* AK).

Rather late were an Am. Avocet and three Black-bellied Plovers 7 Nov in s.-cen. Nebraska (JGJ). Early was an Am. Golden-Plover in *Kingfisher* 12 Aug (JWA, JAG). A very tardy Semipalmated Plover lingered to 24 Nov in *Oklahoma* (JAG). Only five reports of Piping Plovers were received, all singles at *Douglas*, KS, 12 Aug (AP), Quivira 2 Sep (MR), *Oklahoma* 8–9 Sep (LMa, JN), *Alfalfa*, OK, 9 Sep (JWA), and *Sedgwick*, KS, 11 Sep (PJ, CG). The 70 to 100 Mountain Plovers in *Morton*, KS, 19 Sep (MR, SS) sustain hope for this species. Eight Black-necked Stilts were present in *Tillman*, OK, 10 Aug (MK), with three in *Kingfisher* 12 Aug (JWA, JAG) and one there 17 Sep (MK). A juv. Ruddy Turnstone in *Scotts*

A pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with ducklings in tow in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, 13 Sep 1999 provided only the second breeding record for the state and fits the pattern of spread shown by this species. Photograph/Jean Carl

This confiding female Williamson's Sapsucker near Kenton 18 Sep 1999 represented only the second documented record for Oklahoma. Photograph/Steve Metz

A state and likely Regional first was provided by this Black Phoebe at Webbers Falls Wildlife Management Area, Oklahoma, 27 Oct–30 Nov 1999. This image was captured 30 Oct. Photograph/Steve Metz

Bluff 3–4 Sep (SJD) fell within the window of only six other reports for Nebraska 15 Aug–9 Sep (*fide* WRS). The only Red Knots reported were five in *Osage*, OK, 27 Aug (JWA), two in *Alfalfa*, OK, 9 Sep (JWA), and a tardy bird at Hefner 5 and 10 Oct (JW). A Semipalmated Sandpiper in s.-cen. Nebraska 10 Oct (JGJ), the latest documented for Nebraska (*fide* WRS), was outdone by one documented 24 Nov in *Oklahoma* (JAG). A species to be watched, the 32 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 1 Aug in s.-cen. Nebraska (*fide* WRS), and the 75+ 6 Sep in *Wagoner*, OK, (JM, JN) were the best counts of a generally modest showing. A Ruff was documented in *Kingfisher* 2 Aug (JWA, JL), the potential second for Oklahoma if accepted by the O.B.R.C. Dowitcher observations followed a typical pattern. Nine adult Short-billeds were at *Phelps*, NE, 1 Aug (LR, RH), and 12 juvs. were in *Scotts Bluff* 3 Sep. (SJD). The best count of Long-billeds was 381 in s.-cen. Nebraska 10 Oct (JGJ). An Am. Woodcock in *Garden*, NE, 6 Nov (SJD) may continue the pattern for this species in pressing westward. Red-necked Phalarope reports included one 4 Sep in *Morton*, KS, (PJ, m.ob.), 2–6 at Quivira 6–19 Sep (MR, SS, CG) and five in s.-cen. Nebraska 25 Sep (JGJ). Single **Red Phalaropes** were at Hefner 11 Sep (LM, SM et al.) and Quivira 19 Sep (MR, SS).

Regional observations of jaegers are not an annual occurrence. **Pomarine Jaegers** are generally later than the others, so a light-morph ad. in *Cherry*, NE, 28–29 Aug (JS) was early. At McConaughy, one to three juvs., two dark-morph, and one intermediate Pomarine, were noted 18–19 Nov (SJD); there is a small handful of records for Nebraska. Gulls will not carry the column this season, but offered some highlights. An imm. Laughing Gull was reported in *Tulsa* 4 Aug (MK, GK), with adults noted there irregularly 30 Aug–12 Nov (JWA) and in *Wagoner*, OK, 26 Oct (JWA). A juv. Little Gull was identified at Cheyenne Bottoms 28 Sep (RK); the handful of records for this species during Sep through mid-Oct have all been of juveniles. California Gull numbers gradually build up at McConaughy beginning in late Aug; "several" there 24 Aug became 75 by 6 Nov (SJD). Away from w. Nebraska were singles 7 Oct in *Tulsa* (JWA) and *Wagoner*, OK, 26 Oct (JWA). Seasonal surprises were the two Herring Gulls at McConaughy 15–16 Aug (SJD). Among Thayer's Gulls identified were adults in *Lincoln*, NE, 6 Nov (SJD), with a distinguishably different bird there 19 Nov (SJD). A second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was at McConaughy 24 Aug and 26 Sep (SJD), an early seasonal date for an expanding species but still a Regional rarity. A first-year bird 3 Oct was documented in *Jefferson*, KS (MM). In contrast to the numbers in recent fall seasons, only one Sabine's Gull was reported, a juv. in *Scotts Bluff* 3 Sep (SJD). Com. Terns appeared within the normal Sep window, with one lingering to 1 Nov in *Wagoner*, OK (JWA).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Continuing the pattern of dove proliferation, a White-winged appeared at a Lincoln feeder 7–10 Oct (DKo, *fide* JS), the seventh reported for Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Another was shot by a dove hunter in *Leavenworth*, KS, 1 Sep (*fide* LM). Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from *Barton*, *Morton*, *Pratt*, and *Stevens*, KS (*fide* LM), and *Alfalfa*, *Cimarron*, and *Oklahoma*, OK. Inca Doves were reported from *Pratt*, KS, 31 Aug (L&JQ) and 4 Sep (M&EC), *Sumner*, KS, 17 Nov (WC), and *McCurtain*, OK, 6 Sep (BH) and 4 Oct (DA). Rounding out our dove collection with the (currently) rarest were one to two Com. Ground-Doves reported from *McCurtain*, OK, 29 Aug–24 Nov (BH, DA).

An imm. male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in *Cimarron*, OK, 3 Sep (DR, BG, JP) provided the first actually documented for Oklahoma. A female or imm. Broad-tailed and a similarly-plumaged Rufous Hummingbird were in *Kimball*, NE, 15 Aug (SJD). A male Broad-tailed was also in *Seward*, KS, 22 Aug (LE). A female **Williamson's Sapsucker** in *Cimarron* 18 Sep (SM, JM et al.) represented only the second documented for Oklahoma. A Red-naped Sapsucker in *Morton*, KS, 17 Oct (SP, CH) was later than expected, but from a very limited collection

of observations.

Kansas birders continue in their observations and expectations of w. *Empidonax* flycatchers in *Morton*, KS. The most expected, Hammond's, was identified 3 Sep (BPe). Still uncertain, but reported, were one Dusky 3 Sep (BPe) and two 10 Sep (BPe et al.). Also reported there was a Gray Flyctacher 18 Sep. These represent the record of potential, if uncertain, observations for this troublesome group this season. Most unexpected was a **Black Phoebe** 27 Oct–30 Nov in *Muskogee*, OK (JM, SM, m.ob.), the first for Oklahoma and likely the Region (see Thompson and Ely 1992). A surprising high count of 150 Eastern Kingbirds marked a significant movement in *Buffalo*, NE, 23 Aug (LR, RH). Two in Tulsa 19 Oct (JL) were exceptionally late. An imm. N. Shrike in *Scotts Bluff* 2 Oct (SJD) was rather early.

Among the recently split sisters of the Solitary Vireo were Plumbeous Vireos 5 Sep (BPe) and 10 Sep (BPe et al.) in *Morton*, KS. Thankfully documented, but still subject to review, were Cassin's Vireos in *Cimarron*, OK, 3 Sep (DR et al.) and 18 Sep (SM) and *Morton*, KS, 11 Sep (MM). Cassin's were also identified in *Kimball*, NE, 15 Aug (SJD) and *Morton* 3 Sep (BPe). A Blue-headed Vireo in *Hall*, NE, 25 Sep (LR, RH) is the only documented record for central Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Another was reported for *Morton*, KS 17 Oct (SP, CH). Most unexpected was a Mountain Chickadee in *Kimball*, NE 1 Aug (MB); no others were reported this fall. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widely reported, although nowhere concentrated. First to arrive away from the breeding range was one in *Otoe*, NE, 6 Aug (LF, CF), a record early date. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue expanding in Nebraska, with adults feeding young in *Kimball* 22 Aug (JS, WRS). A male Varied Thrush in *Madison*, NE, during much of Nov (MB, GH, WH) was a rare find.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warblers may be most noteworthy for not dominating the passerine portion of this report. Scrub and tangle-loving *Vermivora* may have fared the best, with a Blue-winged Warbler in *Morton*, KS, 3 Sep (H&SG) and Golden-winged Warblers 30 Aug (JNo) and 3 Sep (H&SG) in *Sedgwick*, KS, 4 Sep in *Morton* (BPe), and Tulsa 29 Sep (BC). Virginia's Warblers were found in *Morton* 4 Sep (BF) and 10 Sep (BPe et al.). Among surprisingly few observations for these warblers were single Chestnut-sideds in *Otoe*, NE, 8 Sep (LF, CF) and in *Sarpy*, NE, 27 Sep (BP, LP), and a Magnolia 29 Sep in Tulsa (BC). Among an exceptional array for one of the Region's rarest warblers were the Black-throated Blues in *Morton* 4 (BF) and 5 Sep (BPe), *Loup/Garfield*, NE, 25 Sep (MB, DH), *Kimball*, NE, 26 Sep (SJD), *Oklahoma* 3 Oct (JW et al.), and *Cleveland*, OK, 14 Oct (VB). Six Palm Warblers noted in Nebraska w. to *York* 18 Sep–6 Oct (LE, JS, BA, BP, LP) represent 20% of the entire fall total for this species (*fide* WRS). Palms were also reported from *McCurtain*, OK, 29 Sep (DA) and 7 Oct (BH). Pine Warblers were noted in *Sedgwick*, KS, 8 Sep and 3 Oct (CG). Breeding of Yellow-throated Warbler was confirmed for only the second time in Nebraska in *Sarpy* where two adults were feeding two young 6–9 Sep (BP, LP). Among w. warblers east were Black-throated Grays 4 Sep in *Morton*, KS, (BPe) and 17 Oct in *Harvey*, KS (CS). Townsend's Warblers were found in *Morton*, KS, 4 (BPe) and 18 Sep (MR, SS), with four noted 17–18 Oct (SP, CH).

Among the limited reports of Green-tailed Towhee were one in *Cimarron*, OK, 18 Sep (JT et al.), one in *Morton*, KS, 19 Sep (MR, SS), and two in *Kimball*, NE, 20 Sep (SJD). A Bachman's Sparrow, almost invisible in fall, was noted in *Creek*, OK, 3 Sep (JWA). Always a rare find, two Baird's Sparrows were documented in *Keith/Garden*, NE, 26 Sep (SJD), with singles in *Pawnee*, KS, 29 Sep (SS), and *Coffey*, KS, 25 Oct (AS). Perhaps more elusive than rare, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were more commonly reported in Nebraska this season, including six in *York* 14 Oct (JG), five in *Lancaster* 2 Oct (JG), four in *Lancaster/Saunders* 3 Oct (JS), and singles in *Hall* 2 Oct (LR, RH). One appeared in a building entranceway in *Oklahoma* 29 Sep (JAG), two in *Sumner*, KS, 16 Oct (GY), and one in *Sedgwick*, KS, 23 Oct (CG). A Snow Bunting wandered s. to Cheyenne Bottoms 1 Nov (RK). Tardy, or awaiting death, was a Baltimore Oriole 9 Nov in *Seward*, NE (PK). Purple Finches showed some spark of existence in e. Nebraska this season. One in *Sioux*, NE, 13 Nov (JG) was exceptionally far west. A male White-winged Crossbill was in *Burt*, NE, 21 Nov (JGJ), the only report for the season. Somewhat enigmatic were Lesser Goldfinches, with singles in *Kimball*, NE, 21–27 Aug (MB et al.), 10 Sep (BPe et al.), and 18 Sep (MR, SS) in *Morton*, KS. Three Evening Grosbeaks, hard to come by for quite a few years, were in *Sedgwick*, KS, 26 Nov (PJ).

Cited observers (area editors boldfaced): KANSAS: Mark & Elaine Corder, Wally Champeny, Bob Fisher, Harry & Sharron Gregory, Chet Gresham, Tyler Hicks, Chris Hobbs, Pete Janzen, Rich Kostecke, Dan Kilby, **Lloyd Moore,** Mick McHugh, Roger McNeill, Steve Metz, John Northrup (JNo), Chuck Otte, Alexis Powell, Brandon Percival (BPe), Sebastian Patti, Lee & Jane Queal, Mike Rader, Art Swalwell, Scott Seltman, Carolyn Schwab, Don Vannoy, Gene Young. NEBRASKA: Betty Allen, Laurel Badura, Mark Brogie, George Canterbury, Betty Canterbury (BCa), Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Carol Falk, Laurence Falk, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Dave Heidt, Glen Hoge, Wanda Hoge, Bill F. Huser, Joel G. Jorgensen, Paul Kaufman, Alice Kenitz, Dearald Kohles (DKo), Gary Lingle, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Larry Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock,** John Sullivan. OKLAHOMA: David Arbour, **James W. Arterburn,** Bill Carrell, Vicki Byre, Frank Carl, Eddie Dunn, Bonnie Gall, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Berlin Heck, George Kamp, Martha Kamp, **Jo Loyd,** Tom Martin, Larry Mayes (LMa), **Jeri McMahon,** Steve Metz, Jim Norman, John Pushcock, Rob Ratley, Dan Reinking, Jerry Sisler (JSi), John Sterling (JSt), Jack Tyler, Laurel Upshaw, Anne Wilber, Jimmy Woodward.

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An immature Brown Booby on an oil platform off Kenedy, Texas, 30 Oct 1999. Photograph/Alan Wormington

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SA Hurricane *Bret* developed quickly in the southern Gulf of Mexico 19–20 Aug, reaching Category 4 status by the time it made landfall on Sunday, 22 Aug, in a sparsely populated area of the lower Texas coast near Baffin Bay. From 22–24 Aug, much of the brush country se. of Del Rio received substantial downpours, especially in coastal *Kleberg* and *Kenedy*. By 26 Aug *Bret* had spent itself as it crashed into the rugged mountains of northern Nuevo Leon and Coahuila, Mexico. Ornithologically, *Bret* barely caused a blip in the migration. Beach searches on Mustang and N. Padre Is. 23–24 Aug by three separate teams of observers tallied several hundred casualities (probably suggesting thousands storm-killed) of at least 40 species, with swallows appearing hardest hit. There were some storm-killed pelagics on the beach (a dozen Cory's Shearwaters and two unidentified storm-petrels). Two sulids (early gannets?) blew past Hebbronville in *Duval* on the 23rd (JiH) and a couple of Magnificent Frigatebirds were blown slightly inland to Choke Canyon Reservoir (J&BRi et al.). Hazel Bazemore observers tallied an out-of-range Zone-tailed Hawk 24 Aug, but its relationship to the passage of *Bret* is unclear. It might be a stretch, but El Paso's Roseate Spoonbill may have been hurricane-related.

The mild summer sank quickly into an extended and severe drought over most of Texas as fall wore on. In late August, Hurricane *Bret* brought rainfall relief to deep south Texas but caused barely a ripple in the migration; *Bret* was generally a disappointment for storm-blown bird chasers. We received fascinating reports from oil rig sitters participating in the "Migration Over the Gulf Project" sponsored by Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural Science. Several observers (CCo, BGi, WL, BR, AW) shared duties on watch on three rigs offshore of High Island, Matagorda Island, and N. Padre Island (records for these sites will be arbitrarily assigned to *Brazoria*, *Calhoun*, and *Kenedy*, respectively). On their long list of intriguing and "out-of-habitat" birds were Broad-winged Hawk, Inca Dove, five spp. of owls, Red-headed Woodpecker, Winter Wren, Sage and Long-billed Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Cassin's Sparrow, Gray-headed Junco, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Pyrrhuloxia. We highlight other sightings from this project below. The hawkwatchers at Smith Point on the east side of Galveston Bay and at Hazel Bazemore County Park near Corpus Christi again racked up impressive—and occasionally controversial—results. There were early irruptions of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets; western species such as Say's Phoebe, Verdin, Green-tailed Towhee, and Pyrrhuloxia showed up eastward a bit more than usual, but there were no other winter invasions.

This column is dedicated to the memory of two of our long-time birding friends, Linda Snyder and Dave Stuart.

Abbreviations: M.O.G. *(Migration Over the Gulf Project, L.S.U.);* S.S.W.T.P. *(Southside Water Treatment Plant, Dallas Co.);* T.B.R.C. *(Texas Bird Records Committee, Texas Ornithological Society);* T.P.W.D. *(Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.);* F.W.S. *(U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service);* U.T.C. *(Upper Texas Coast).* The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Attwater, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Hagerman, Laguna Atascosa, and Santa Ana.

Table 1. Texas Hawkwatch Results, Fall 1999

Species	Smith Point	Hazel Bazemore
Black Vulture	341	1,398
Turkey Vulture	1,295	30,029
Osprey	54	180
Swallow-tailed Kite	52	31
White-tailed Kite	18	6
Mississippi Kite	2,975	5,513
Bald Eagle	2	4
Northern Harrier	537	331
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3,896	1,349
Cooper's Hawk	1,197	1,090
Northern Goshawk		1
Harris's Hawk		27
Red-shouldered Hawk	34	77
Broad-winged Hawk	34,242	640,258
Short-tailed Hawk		2
Swainson's Hawk	129	1,232
White-tailed Hawk	2	13
Zone-tailed Hawk		6
Red-tailed Hawk	204	281
Ferruginous Hawk	2	14
Rough-legged Hawk	2	4
Golden Eagle	1	4
Crested Caracara	4	18
American Kestrel	1,939	460
Merlin	48	57
Aplomado Falcon		1
Prairie Falcon		33
Peregrine Falcon	85	241
Unidentified Raptors	269	4,336
Season Totals	47,328	687,003*

*Three nearby sites tallied an additional 240,806 raptors on four watch dates.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

The obligatory Red-throated Loon for n.-cen. Texas showed up 17–20 Nov at L. Benbrook, providing a first *Tarrant* record (PH et al.). A group of six Pacific Loons at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 25 Oct was probably the biggest group ever seen together in Texas (MWh); single Pacifics were seen there periodically afterward. The only coastal report was one 15–26 Nov at Port O'Connor (PH, BF). Symptomatic of the loon density in ne. Texas was a count of 71 Com. Loons at L. Tawakoni in early Nov. We received a belated report of a pair of Least Grebes which successfully nested in *Austin* in June (RO). Almost annual in recent years, a Red-necked Grebe was at L. Tawakoni 6 Nov (†MWh). Sixty-one occupied nests of Eared Grebes was an amazing concentration at a playa in *Randall* 19 Aug (KS). Two gadfly petrels seen at a distance from the *Kenedy* oil rig 28 Oct appeared *not* to be Black-cappeds, but their specific identity, suggested to be Heralds, will remain a mystery (AW). The M.O.G. Project documented the movement of Cory's Shearwaters stretching from 13 Aug–16 Nov, with birds seen on 50 dates during that period and the highest daily tally of 26 birds. From the *Kenedy* rig, Wormington reported four Sooty Shearwaters on 5 Nov (†to T.B.R.C.). He also photographed a Brown Booby 30 Oct. There were a few inland Brown Pelicans of note: singles were at L. Mexia, *Limestone*, 6 Sep (AF, MCa), and at Hagerman 12–18 Nov (third refuge record; KH). Two nests of Double-crested Cormorants in Aug were a first for Buffalo L. and only a second nesting site for the Panhandle (PT, m.ob.). Two Neotropic Cormorants in *Harrison* in ne. Texas 30 Aug were rare for the area (GLu, EdR). Twenty-four Least Bitterns were flushed by a combine in a rice field 5 Sep in *Calhoun* (PH). Only a third record for the Panhandle, a Tricolored Heron was photographed in Amarillo, *Potter*, 1 Oct (CBru). Good records of Reddish Egret included birds at Martin Creek L., *Panola*, 9 Aug (second ne. Texas record; MD) and another photographed at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell*, 6 Nov (DRo, RPi). Particularly unusual for e. Texas was a large number of White Ibises present through Nov in *Harrison*, *Freestone*, *Brazos*, *Washington*, and *Grimes* (m.ob). Attwater hosted an amazing group of 3,000 *Plegadis* ibis 3 Oct (JO, DS, JeM). Far-flung Roseate Spoonbills included a few in *Harrison* and *Henderson* in Sep/Oct (m.ob.). The farthest flung was one 25 Aug–10 Sep at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, providing a first El Paso area record (ph. BZ et al.).

WATERFOWL

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Rockport had young on the late date of 30 Sep (MM), perhaps in response to rains from Hurricane *Bret*. An immature swan, initially reported as a Trumpeter, was at Hagerman 29 Nov+ (†to T.B.R.C.; GCo et al.); this is a tough identification problem. Among the unexpected M.O.G. sightings was a pair of Ross's Geese among 7 Snows 2 Nov off of *Calhoun* (BGi). Fifteen Muscovy Ducks on the Rio Grande at Salineño 6 Sep was a notable number (TB). Up to six Wood Ducks were seen during 29 Sep–23 Oct in Midland (FW et al.). An early (for the U.T.C.) female Cinnamon Teal was banded at Anahuac 5 Aug (JN). A female N. Shoveler with seven young was in *Randall* on 19 Aug, a rare Panhandle nest record (KS). Single Long-tailed Ducks were at L. Tawakoni 10–17 Nov (JMax et al.) and in *Kleberg* 24 Nov (M & AC). There were six widely scattered reports of Surf Scoters, the most interesting ones at Mason in the Texas Hill Country 19 Oct (DF, BoF) and a gorgeous ad. male at L. Balmorhea 12 Nov+ (GW, MP). A female Black Scoter was photographed at Tornillo Res. 23 Nov for a first *El Paso* record (ph. BZ). Lubbock hosted a very early Hooded Merganser 20 Aug (CSt). An ad. Ruddy Duck with five young provided uncommon nesting evidence in Littlefield, *Lamb*, 12 Aug (CSt).

RAPTORS

An early Osprey was in Lubbock 14 Aug (CSt). Seven Hook-billed Kites soaring together were an unusual find over Santa Ana 12 Nov (JK); one on a private ranch in ne. *Starr* 22 Sep (SB) was about 30 mi n. of the Rio Grande (as the kite flies). Two different Swallow-tailed Kites were in *Brazos* 13 Aug (JD, FC); another was in *Washington* 22 Aug (DV) for rare Central Brazos Valley records. A record number of Swallow-taileds (52) were tallied at the Smith Point hawkwatch. A White-tailed Kite was in wooded e. Texas at Alazan M.A. in *Nacogdoches* 31 Oct (DWa). Some remarkable sightings at the Hazel Bazemore hawkwatch, such as N. Goshawk and Short-tailed Hawk, will be circulated to the T.B.R.C. and other seasonal totals were eye-opening (Table 1). Two concentrations of Mississippi Kites were noted in the Panhandle, 100 over Lubbock 5 Sep and 50+ over Canyon 11 Sep (m.ob.). A N. Harrier 13 Aug in *Angelina* was early and another seen from the oil rig off *Calhoun* 2 Nov was certainly out of habitat (BGi). Flippo encountered an imm. N.

Goshawk at Big Bend's Sam Nail Ranch 9 Sep (†to T.B.R.C.). A rice-combine operation in *Calhoun* 15 Nov attracted a concentration of 38 White-tailed Hawks (PH). Two early Ferruginous Hawks were at Smith Pt. 27–28 Aug (WBu et al.). One over the Texas A&M campus 22 Nov (JWi) was the first area record in a decade. The most interesting Golden Eagle report was one at Laguna Atascosa 26 Sep (BL). Two Crested Caracaras in *Hopkins* 7 Oct were a rare find but may be part of a small local population (MWh); a count of 14 at Brazos Bend 6 Nov was exceptional that far east (NBl). A total of 115 Aplomado Falcons were released in 1999 at seven locations on the central and lower Texas coast; 466 have been released in the state since 1985 (Peregrine Fund, F.W.S., T.P.W.D.). Biologists monitored 19 active nests this year, up from five the previous year. The 33 Prairie Falcons reported at Hazel Bazemore was perhaps the most striking of their seasonal totals.

GALLINULES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Purple Gallinule at Gus Engeling W.M.A. 18 Sep was a first fall record for that site (F.W.A.S.). As the Whooping Crane flock began to arrive and build to record size, a few stragglers showed up in unanticipated locations; easternmost was a single ad. near the *Jefferson/Liberty* line 6 Nov (Ja&LW). A report of 33 migrating in *Burleson* 11 Nov may have been one of the largest groups ever spotted en route to Aransas (BE). The larger plovers are uncommon in the Panhandle. This season Black-bellieds were in *Randall* 22 Sep (two; KS) and two to five Am. Golden-Plovers were at the same location 24 Sep–30 Oct (m.ob.). Rare as well in n. and e. Texas at this season, ten Am. Goldens were at Cooper L. 12 Oct (MWh) and two more remained in *Harrison* 8 Oct–15 Nov (GLu, EdR). Petra Hockey had three on the late date of 12 Nov in *Calhoun* and Sproul had the latest ever in the El Paso area 7 Nov. A rare Piping Plover was at Cooper L. 24 Aug (MWh). Two Mountain Plovers 2 Aug in *Lubbock* seemed a bit early even at that latitude. Observers watching the Granger L. area fairly closely discovered their first 11 Mountain Plovers 17 Oct (BF); up to 146 were there later in Oct (m.ob.). Ten near the Rio Grande in n. *Maverick* 20 Nov may be at a regular location, but few observers search that area (SS). A Whimbrel and a Red Knot were at Hagerman 7–12 Sep, where more records have been accumulated of these particular species than anywhere else in n.-cen. Texas (LL). Up to seven Marbled Godwits spent several weeks at L. Balmorhea from late Aug onward (MAd et al.); another was at Ft. Hancock 28 Aug (BZ). A good find was a Sanderling in *Randall* 2 Oct (EK et al.). The discovery of two late Semipalmated Sandpipers in Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes*, 14 Nov was a treat (ERa, MSh). In the Panhandle, three Dunlins in *Randall* 26 Oct (BiMc, RSc) and another at Taylor Lakes W.M.A., *Donley*, 12 Nov (KS) were rare finds. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Lubbock 11 Sep represented only the third record for the South Plains (AF). A good concentration of 117 was in w. *Bastrop* 9 Aug (BF). Although the species is more numerous in w. Texas in the fall, concentrations of Wilson's Phalaropes to the e. are less expected. A flock of 510 in *Brazoria* 21 Aug was thus a nice find (RWe). In widely scattered e. Texas locations, a few Wilson's lingered into early and mid-Nov. Two Red-necked Phalaropes were reported, at S.S.W.T.P. 12 Sep (CE) and Freeport 15–27 Sep (RWe et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

The oil-rig sitters saw good numbers of jaegers. For example, Pomarines were noted on 13 dates from 26 Sep–17 Nov from the platform off High Island; the latter date had the peak count of 33 birds and 20 were tallied there 14 Nov. Large numbers of unidentified jaegers were passing in mid-Nov, including an amazing estimate of 100 on 16 Nov (CCo). Many fewer Parasitics were reported from the rigs during the same period (CCo, BGi). Onshore, the earliest jaeger was a Pomarine reported by hawkwatchers 6 Sep at Hazel Bazemore (JSi). Two Parasitics were at San Antonio's Calaveras L. 17 Oct (BDo) and two more (dark-morph imm.) provided a first *Van Zandt* and second L. Tawakoni record 14–16 Nov (MWh, PBa). Rasmussen discovered a jaeger (thought to be a Parasitic) in w. Texas at Imperial Res. 26 Nov. A super find was a Laughing Gull on the outskirts of Amarillo, *Randall*, 13–14 Sep (KS et al.), providing the first area record since 1963. A juv.-plumaged (or early first-winter) Little Gull was at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant*, 14–19 Nov (ph. †MR, m.ob.; first co. record). For the fifth year in a row a Black-headed Gull showed up at Cooper L. 26 Nov+ (ph. †MWh). Right as Hurricane *Bret* was hitting the coast an early Bonaparte's Gull was seen at Santa Ana (KK). Two California Gulls were reported in the Galveston/Bolivar Pen. area 21 Nov (MR). Three first-winter Herring Gulls at Boca Chica, *Cameron*, seemed early 3 Sep (BMc). A first-winter Thayer's Gull was at Rockport 17–20 Nov (ph. MI et al.). A second-basic Lesser Black-backed Gull made a surprisingly early appearance at Follett's I., *Brazoria*, 18 Aug (JSt). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Imperial Res. from 26 Nov+ (RR, ph. GL), the first ever photographed in the Trans-Pecos. The offshore observers noted single Sabine's Gulls 7 and 16 Sep (AW, BGi). The only inland report was an ad. 24 Aug at Cooper's L. (†MWh). Rare inland Caspian Terns were at Feather L. (El Paso) 28 Aug (JS), Granger L. 29 Sep (TF), and Calaveras L. 6 Nov (BDo). A scarce find in wooded e. Texas was a Com. Tern in *Angelina* 21 Sep (NBi, JWin). Four Bridled Terns were reported from the High I. oil rig 19 Aug–7 Sep (CCo); during the same time period Cox also had ten Sooties.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A Band-tailed Pigeon found freshly dead near Concan, *Uvalde*, 5 Nov (JGr; ph. SSl, JOs) provided only the fourth Hill Country record. The species is resident in mountain ranges of n. Coahuila, Mexico, about 90 miles southwest. At least three Eurasian Collared-Doves were in Nacogdoches, where a territorial pair was seen in summer (DW, MW). Most remarkable was its explosion in the Trans-Pecos, High Plains, and Panhandle: Lasley photographed a concentration of 31 in Balmorhea 28 Nov, where only a handful had been present earlier in the year. Five new counties were added in the Panhandle, *Dallam, Hansford, Lubbock, Oldham,* and *Sherman.* Inca Doves were noteworthy finds in *Smith* 24–28 Aug (RGu, PBa) and in Gruver, *Hansford*, 19 Sep (MT). Three White-tipped Doves were at Indianola, *Calhoun*, in Sep (BF, PH) where a single bird had been found in Mar. One was also reported from Santa Elena Cyn. in Big Bend 10 Sep (DarW), where it has yet to be well documented. The only coastal Black-billed Cuckoos were at Rockport 13 Sep (MM) and the *Calhoun* oil rig 21 Oct (BGi); more remarkable was another at Muleshoe 5 Sep (RSm). Groove-billed Anis put on a good show on the U.T.C., with the first showing up at Quintana, *Brazoria*, 19 Sep (JL, m.ob.). The oil rigs produced some interesting owl records. Most notably, a Flammulated was photographed on the *Calhoun* rig 10 Oct. Additionally, there were two Burrowing Owls at that rig in mid-Oct, three Long-eareds at two rigs late Oct–early Nov, and a Short-eared at the *Calhoun* rig 18 Oct (AW, BGi). *Brazoria* got its first Long-eared Owl, at Quintana 3 Nov (C & OB, JB).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A good find at the e. edge of the Texas Hill

Country was a flock of eight to ten White-throated Swifts that raced by diners at the Tower of the Americas restaurant high over San Antonio 25 Oct (B & JH). We had reports of three Broad-billed Hummingbirds in w. Texas and one in deep s. Texas. A male was at Alpine 17 Aug–22 Sep (ph. DO et al.); one was at Ft. Davis 6 Sep (†M & ME) and a late male showed up in El Paso in mid-Nov+ (ph. JZ, MSc). The s. Texas bird was at Los Fresnos 28–29 Aug (†N & PA). An ad. male **Berylline Hummingbird** was photographed 3 Aug and (probably the same bird) 8 Aug (ph. M & ME, CSh); this spot was precisely the same one where the species was confirmed for Texas two years earlier. There were first county records of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds in *Brazos* early Sep–20 Oct (MWi) and in *Milam* 2 Nov (FBur). One of the *Washington* Buff-bellieds from summer lingered to 9 Sep (MEf). Freeman had another in *Bastrop* 5 Aug and it made an early and above-average push into the e. portion of the U.T.C. by Sep (m.ob.). A male Blue-throated Hummingbird made an appearance at Helotes, *Bexar*, 11 Nov (RH). Apparently two separate male Lucifers showed up at feeders in San Antonio 27 Sep and 21 Oct (LEm, CCu); it is rare away from the Trans-Pecos. Anna's Hummingbirds were more common than normal in the Trans-Pecos and we had reports of five elsewhere in Texas. The best of the latter was a male in Longview 22–24 Sep (ph. GLu, MiL) for a first *Gregg* record. Calliopes made an appearance on the U.T.C., with a female at West Columbia 11–12 Sep (C & OB) and a male in w. Houston 12–14 Nov (ph. SO). Four late-lingering Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were in El Paso 19 Nov–1 Dec. (BZ). Single Ringed Kingfishers were in Victoria 10 Nov (NH) and at Kingsville 17–21 Nov (GP); with recent movements of this bird we hesitate to even call these records "extralimital." Red-naped Sapsuckers were reported at Bentsen (no date) and in Corpus Christi 26 Nov (WS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A wood-pewee reported as Western was photographed on the *Calhoun* rig 24 Sep (BGi). Most amazing, a pewee photographed on the oil rig off N. Padre I., *Kenedy*, 9 Oct (BR) shows characteristics of Cuban Pewee *Contopus caribeaus*. This record will be researched and reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A good find was 14 Alder Flycatchers calling 15 Aug in the Guadalupe R. delta, *Refugio* (A&MC). Surprisingly early for the U.T.C. was an E. Phoebe at Sabine Woods 15 Aug (KSz); they were unusually common in the Midland area, with eight reports this fall (FW). Single Say's Phoebes were out of place on Galveston I. 23 Sep (KH, MSt), on the *Calhoun* rig 31 Oct (BGi), and in *Wichita* in Nov (DMc) and *Tarrant* (MR). A Vermilion Flycatcher in *Harrison* 10 Oct was a rare find for ne. Texas (DWe). Wandering Great Kiskadees made news in two areas of the state, with singles at Hagerman 14 Nov (KH et al.), a first for *Grayson*, two at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun*, 26 Oct (PH), and one at Guadalupe Delta WMA 14 Nov (PH). Tropical Kingbirds continue to be observed more frequently in s. Texas; one in *Starr* 6 Sep (TB) was the farthest w. this season. Non-vocalizing Couch's/Tropicals were likewise widely reported, including one in *Brazoria* 13 Aug and eight in *Victoria* 11 Nov. The Rose-throated Becards at Anzalduas from the summer report were seen sporadically until at least 14 Nov (†FB). The only N. Shrike was an imm. at Buffalo L. 27 Nov (KS). Single Cassin's Vireos were reported at High I. 25 Sep (MA) and at Corpus Christi 16 Nov (MC). Unexpected was a Plumbeous Vireo in Corpus Christi 16 Nov+ (MC et al.). A good Lubbock record was provided by a Philadelphia Vireo 26 Sep–10 Oct (AF, KD).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS

A well-described W. Scrub-Jay was totally out of range and habitat at Laredo 5 Sep (LE). Unexpected was a Com. Raven just off the caprock in *Crosby* 27 Nov (ML). A Purple Martin at McNary 25 Aug (ph. BZ) provided a rare Trans-Pecos record. A flock of 250,000 Barn Swallows going to roost in a sugar cane field in *Hidalgo* 14 Oct was a spectacle (MI, BGi). The most notable Red-breasted Nuthatch of the fall incursion was at Anzalduas 14 Oct (MI, BGi). A stray White-breasted Nuthatch was in *Bexar* 7 Nov (BDo). Palo Duro Cyn., *Randall*, got its first Cactus Wren 8 Nov+ (Rsc et al.). A Rock Wren moved e. to L. Tawakoni 10-17 Nov, where it is a rare vagrant (JMax, ph. MWh). An early flock of W. Bluebirds showed at Midland 24 Oct–6 Nov (DK, m.ob.). Mountain Bluebirds were scarce in their regular w. Texas winter range, but two showed up well to the s. on the King Ranch, *Kleberg* (ph. GP, TLa). Rare in the w. half of Texas in fall, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in San Antonio 11 Oct (CCu) and in Lubbock 23 Oct (AF, MCa). Clay-colored Robins made a late nesting attempt at Anzalduas in early Aug (TB). A brief description of a possible Rufous-backed Robin netted by a team of mammologists 30 Oct along the Rio Grande in Big Bend, will be circulated by the T.B.R.C. The Blue Mockingbird reported at Weslaco in the spring apparently remained through at least the end of Oct (m.ob.) but was difficult to observe. Early was a Cedar Waxwing at Quintana 9 Oct (RWe). Single wandering Phainopeplas were noted at Midland 28 Aug (m.ob.) and Canyon, *Randall*, 4 Sep (ID, WD).

It was an exceptional fall for warblers in the Panhandle and High Plains, especially for Lubbock observers (Table 2). There were enough stray records of Prothonotary Warbler to suggest a substantial westward "slippage." In addition to records in Table 2 were five coastal and seven widely scattered interior Black-throated Blues 18 Sep-6 Nov, well above a normal showing. Away from

Generally thought to be a sedentary species, this Long-billed Thrasher was a shocking find on an oil platform off Kenedy, Texas, 14 Nov 1999. Photograph/Alan Wormington

Table 2. Interesting Fall Warblers in Texas, Fall 1999

Species	Date	Location	Observer(s)
Blue-winged	9 Sep	Bastrop	BF
Golden-winged	9 Nov	Lubbock	PK, JF
Tennessee	10 Sep, 3 Oct	Lubbock	AF
Tennessee	2 Oct	Crosby	ML
Tennessee	12 Oct	Amarillo	RSc
Northern Parula	2–3 Aug	Davis Mts.	CSh et al.
Northern Parula	22 Sep	Lubbock	AF
Northern Parula	26 Nov	El Paso	BZ
Chestnut-sided	26 Nov	El Paso	BZ
Magnolia	14 Sep	Ft. Bliss	BZ
Cape May	3 Nov	off Kennedy	AW
Black-throated Blue (3)	18 Sep–6 Nov	Austin	m.ob.
Black-throated Blue	3 Oct	Lubbock	AF
Black-throated Blue	18 Oct	Ft. Worth	TxB
Black-throated Blue	19 Oct	Del Rio	DLar et al.
Black-throated Blue	22 Oct	Irving	SCof
Townsend's	16 Sep	Canyon	CFo, LS
Townsend's	10 Oct	Bastrop	BF
Black-throated Green	22 & 27 Aug	Lubbock	m.ob.
Black-throated Green (3)	11 Sep	Lubbock	KD, AF
Black-throated Green	24 Sep	Buffalo L.	KS
Blackburnian	24 Oct	Lubbock	KD
Pine	26 Sep	Lubbock	AF
Prairie	10 Sep	Dallas	KC
Prairie	18 Sep	Bell	BF
Bay-breasted	26 Sep	Lubbock	AF
Blackpoll	18 Sep	Canyon	GC, MCr, PI
Prothonotary (2)	28 Aug–19 Sep	Lubbock	AF, m.ob.
Prothonotary (5)	12 Sep–5 Oct	Trans-Pecos	m.ob.
Prothonotary	20 Sep	Uvalde	LyB
Worm-eating	12 Nov	Victoria	NH
Swainson's	19 Sep	Lubbock	AF, JF
Louisiana Waterthrush	28 Aug	Lubbock	CF, JF
Louisiana Waterthrush	10 Sep	Lubbock	AF
Kentucky	26 Sep	Lubbock	AF
MacGillivray's	12 Sep	Brazoria	DVe
Hooded	17 Nov+	Corpus Christi	A&MC et al.

expected winter haunts along the Rio Grande were at least six additional Black-throated Grays in c. and e. Texas and smaller numbers of stray Townsend's. A rather well-described male Golden-cheeked Warbler was studied by two parties at Santa Ana on the unheard of date of 14 Nov (†JJ, JuW). Prompting some confusion and careful study was an apparent female hybrid Hooded ˘ Kentucky Warbler on the *Kenedy* oil rig 18–19 Oct (†AW). One of Texas' rarest migrants, now averaging about one record per year, a Red-faced Warbler in Big Bend's Boot Canyon 14 Aug was right on schedule (†EC).

SEEDEATER THROUGH FINCHES

Engles located a small population of White-collared Seedeaters in Laredo, *Webb*, 24 Oct+; Texas reports have grown considerably in recent years. Unexpected and a good find was a pair of E. Towhees at Amarillo, *Randall*, 14 Oct (KS). The oil rigs in the Gulf turned up some interesting early sparrow records: the High I. rig had a Clay-colored 29 Aug (CCo) and *Calhoun* had a Chipping 9 Sep, a Clay-colored 16 Sep, and a Cassin's 21 Sep (BGi). Clay-coloreds were at *Rusk* 18 Oct (Pha) and Caddo L., *Harrison*, 3 Nov (Ero), adding to a handful of fall records for that area. An early Vesper Sparrow was on Galveston I. 24 Sep (KeH, MSt) and an early Savannah Sparrow was near Granger, *Williamson*, 18 Sep (BF). Adding to the short list of inland Texas records of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow were two in *Harrison* 24 Oct (†GLu, EdR). Providing the first Aug record for Big Bend was a Lincoln's Sparrow on the 14th (RLo). A Harris's Sparrow at Cooper L. 23 Oct was early (MWh). Early Smith's Longspurs included singles in *Tarrant* in late Oct, (SCof), at Cooper L. 26 Oct (MWh), and unexpectedly in *Calhoun* 23 Oct (PH, BF). Pyrrhuloxias at Canyon 25 Oct (JiR) and in *Washington* 13 Nov (DV) were wanderers. Indigo Buntings moved through e. Texas in "amazing numbers" (*fide* BeF). Interesting Lazuli Bunting records were in *Crosby* 2 Oct (ML) and on the Matagorda Pen., *Calhoun*, 7 Oct (PH). More Dickcissels than usual hung around into Nov, including a late inland record at Balcones Canyonlands 6 Nov (CS). *Polk* got its first Bobolink, a rare fall migrant 11 Sep (JO). At the n. edge of its range was an Audubon's Oriole in Castroville, *Medina*, 30 Oct (KBa). Concern continues to mount about long-term declines in Purple Finches wintering in Texas; single reports bring notice even in their former stronghold of e. Texas. A first *Marion* record of Red Crossbill was provided by a flock of 30 at Lake O' the Pines 10 Nov (EM).

CORRIGENDUM

The Roseate Spoonbills in *Donley* in July were seen by Harvey Oatman and Kevin Moxon.

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas rarities were reported with little or no documentation to support their occurrence: Black Swift offshore 8 Oct, two Allen's Hummingbids, L. Jackson 10–14 Aug, and Golden-crowned Sparrow on Galveston I. 3 Nov.

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idaho–western montana

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The Region experienced mild fall weather for the third consecutive year. It was unusually warm and dry most of the season, with record high temperatures in November. The extended open water season allowed waterfowl and shorebirds to linger to record late dates. Few concentrations of migrating passerines were mentioned, directly attributed to a lack of fall storms. Even so, birders found good numbers of Eastern warblers and rare gulls, making the season enjoyable and memorable.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. *(American Falls Res., by American Falls, Idaho);* B.R. *(Bridger Ridge Hawk Watch, Gallatin Co., MT);* C.J.S.R. *(C.J. Strike Res., Owyhee Co., ID);* C.N.W.R. *(Camas N.W.R., Jefferson Co., ID);* D.F.N.W.R. *(Deer Flat N.W.R., Canyon Co., ID);* I.B.O. *(Idaho Bird Observatory at Lucky Peak, near Boise, Idaho);* L.M.N.W.R. *(Lee Metcalf N.W.R., Ravalli Co., MT);* M.L.W.M.A. *(Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Jefferson Co., ID).*

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A rare Red-throated Loon visited C.J.S.R. 13 Nov (JG). Record numbers of Pacific Loons were reported in Idaho, with high counts of *eight* at Cascade Res., *Valley*, 4 Oct (MC, FK), *seven* at A.F.R. 31 Oct (CT), and *12* at C.J.S.R. 13 Nov (JG). Two Montana Pacifics in *Lake* 17 Oct (DC) were noteworthy. Com. Loons also staged impressively in Idaho, with over *100* at Cascade Res. 4 Oct (MC, FK) and 35–60+ at Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, 9 Oct–13 Nov (m.ob.). Rare in sw. Idaho, two Red-necked Grebes stopped near Boise 20–25 Oct (MC, FK). Am. White Pelicans lingered in Idaho, with two in *Blaine*, 21 Nov (DR) and three in *Lemhi* in late Nov (HR). As usual, there were several reports of wandering egrets in Idaho, but the Great Egret at Ninepipes N.W.R., *Lake*, MT, 17 Aug and 12 Sep (JB, DHo) was newsworthy. Cattle Egrets also strayed to Idaho: four were in Twin Falls 3 Aug (KF), one–four were near Boise 18–20 Aug (MC, FK), and three to 16 were in Owyhee 5–6 Nov (JD, DH). Both unusual and early were two Gr. White-fronted Geese and a Snow Goose in *Broadwater*, MT, 5 Sep (C&RF). Another White-fronted strayed to L.M.N.W.R. 26–30 Sep (WT). A Cinnamon Teal at L.M.N.W.R. 20 Nov (WT) was late. For Idaho, three Eur. Wigeon sightings were about average for fall, but a total of five Long-tailed Ducks was unusually high. Idaho's fifth **Black Scoter** was near A.F.R. dam 5–11 Nov (m.ob.), the fifth consecutive year this species has occurred there. Good numbers of Surf and White-winged Scoters were reported this season. High counts included three Surf Scoters at Minidoka N.W.R., *Blaine*, ID, 10 Nov (SB) and an unprecedented *eight* White-winged Scoters at A.F.R. 6 Nov (MCr). Mergansers staged in impressive numbers. Estimates were *200* Hooded Mergansers at Harrison WMA, *Kootenai*, ID, 27 Nov (LA), *400* Com. Mergansers at Black L., *Kootenai*, ID, 25 Nov (LH), *500* Com. Mergansers at Helena Valley Res., *Lewis and Clark*, MT, 25–27 Nov (DS), and *500* Red-breasted Mergansers at A.F.R. 27 Oct (MCr).

Idaho's fourth **Red-shouldered Hawk** was captured at I.B.O. 11 Sep (GK). A total of 17 Broad-winged Hawks were observed over I.B.O. 14 Sep–4 Oct (GK) and 13 were tallied at B.R. (GL, MN). A near-record count of 1,860 Golden Eagles and record counts of 77 Rough-legged Hawks, 18 Peregrine Falcons, and 20 Prairie Falcons

were made at B.R. (GL, MN). Both states reported Gyrfalcons: one flew over B.R. 3 Oct (GL, MN), a white-morph was in the Helena Valley, MT, 6 Nov (CC, GH, GT), and one was near Gannett, *Blaine*, ID, 27 Nov (SSw, DY). Mild weather allowed a phenomenal *20,000* Am. Coots to stage on Ennis L., *Madison*, MT between mid-Oct and mid-Nov (JP). A late Sandhill Crane flew over *Gallatin*, MT, 27 Oct (EA).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH VIREOS

Shorebirds lingered in both states. Late were 18 Am. Avocets at Harrison Res., *Madison*, MT, 5 Nov (MD, JP), a Snowy Plover at Dry L., *Canyon*, ID, 6 Nov (DL), a Gr. Yellowlegs at Mann L., ID, 30 Nov (BJ), five Least Sandpipers at Dry L. 28 Nov (JG), a Pectoral Sandpiper at Dry L. 17 Nov (JG), two Pectorals at L.M.N.W.R. 21 Nov (WT), five Dunlins at Dry L. 27 Nov (JG), a Long-billed Dowitcher at L.M.N.W.R. 20 Nov (WT), and three Long-billed Dowitchers at Dry L. 26 Nov (JG). Idaho birders reported five Am. Golden-Plovers and five Stilt Sandpipers, the lowest numbers in years. Wayward Idaho shorebirds included a Ruddy Turnstone at Mann L. 1 Sep (KC, †SSt) and a Red Knot w. of A.F.R. 12 Sep (MCr). Usually rare and not annual, Short-billed Dowitchers were relatively numerous, with seven reported. A **Red Phalarope** at A.F.R. 31 Oct (MCr, †CT) was Idaho's eighth; one at L.M.N.W.R. 21–26 Oct was a first for Latilong 25 (WT, m.ob.).

There were more reports of jaegers in s. Idaho than usual. Idaho's sixth **Pomarine Jaeger** was at A.F.R. 26 Sep–17 Oct (MCr, RLR). A Parasitic Jaeger stopped at C.J.S.R. 6 Sep (RLR, DT), and one–three persisted at A.F.R. 11 Sep–12 Nov (m.ob.). Rare gulls made news in both states. Exciting state firsts were Montana's ad. **Little Gull** in Polson, *Lake* 7–14 Nov (†DC, CP, TT, m.ob.) and Idaho's ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** near D.F.N.W.R. 11–30 Nov (ph. JG, †CT, m.ob.). The Franklin's Gull in Boise 19 Nov (DT) was both out-of-place and late. Formerly rare, Mew Gulls are now almost expected. One was at A.F.R. 27 Oct–6 Nov (MCr, m.ob.), one–two were in Polson 8–30 Nov (m.ob.), and one was in Boise 19 Nov (DT). Now annual, single Glaucous-winged Gulls appeared at A.F.R. 6–7 Nov (MCr, m.ob.) and Minidoka N.W.R. 11 Nov (MCr, DT). Only Montana hosted Sabine's Gulls in *Lincoln* 26 Aug (EC) and *Beaverhead* 1 Oct (DC). A very late **Arctic Tern** that landed in Missoula, MT, 15 Nov (JM) provided Montana's fifth record.

Although increasingly encountered throughout North America, this adult Little Gull at Polson, Montana, 7–14 Nov 1999 provided a state first. This image was taken 12 Nov 1999. Photograph/Tom Bauer

Like the Little Gull, the Lesser Black-backed Gull is being found in larger numbers and spreading westward. Nonetheless, this adult at a landfill near Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho, 11–30 Nov 1999 (where this photo was taken 30 Nov) provided a state and Regional first. Photograph/John F. Gatchet

Always rare, a Band-tailed Pigeon at M.L.W.M.A. 29 Sep (MCr) was a good find. In a continuing trend, two Barn Owls near Stevensville, MT, 19 Oct–30 Nov (TM, m.ob.) and one in Salmon, ID, in November (HR) were in unusual locales. Owl captures at I.B.O. set records with *51* Flammulateds, one N. Pygmy, two Boreals, and *848* N. Saw-whets 5 Aug–26 Oct (SH). Another Flammulated Owl at D.F.N.W.R. 5 Oct was a refuge first (JA, JG, m.ob.). A Barred Owl captured in Moscow, ID, 16 Oct (KD) and one in Boise 5–30 Nov (MC, FK, m.ob.) were unusual. Another *Strix* owl wandered: a Great Gray Owl was near Missoula Oct–Nov (m.ob.). Anna's Hummingbirds increasingly stray to both states. Reports included females in Boise 9 Aug (MC, FK), *Ravalli*, MT, 12 Oct (WT), and Lewiston, ID, 13–23 Oct (BJ) and a male in *Ravalli* 28 Oct–9 Nov (MD, WT).

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** in *Lemhi* 5 Sep (LK) was Idaho's ninth. A probable hybrid Red-breasted × Red-naped Sapsucker at D.F.N.W.R. 5 Oct (JA, †ph. JG) was unprecedented in Idaho. Least Flycatchers are still rare, though increasingly reported in n. Idaho. One was reported in *Boundary* 11 Aug (EC) and two were in *Kootenai* 19 Sep (*fide* SS). Three Gray Flycatchers banded at I.B.O. 18 Aug–1 Sep (JC) were local firsts. There is still much uncertainty in the field identification and ranges of the "Western-type" Flycatchers, but four captured at I.B.O. 25 Aug–17 Sep were identified as Idaho's first **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** using careful in-hand measurements [how sexed?—ed.] (JC). Single Ash-throated Flycatchers wandered to D.F.N.W.R. 28 Aug (JG) and C.N.W.R. 18 Sep (MCr, GR). A Cassin's Vireo near Boise 3 Nov was late (MC, FK).

JAYS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Only 16 Idaho Blue Jays were reported during the period, the lowest tally in years. A surprising *28,000* Bank Swallows staged at D.F.N.W.R. 21 Aug (JG, DL). Late single Barn Swallows were spotted below A.F.R. dam 14 Nov (MCr) and in *Canyon*, ID, 20 Nov (JG). A Bewick's Wren was near Boise 13–19 Sep (MC, FK); another at D.F.N.W.R. 3 Oct (JG, DL) was a refuge first. Two rare E. Bluebirds, plus fledglings, were reported in *Jefferson*, MT, in late Sep (GW). Always rare, single N. Mockingbirds were in Hamilton, MT, 22 Aug (DB), near Florence, MT, 26 Aug (WT), and in *Boundary*, ID, 18 Oct (RD).

There was a veritable invasion of rare Eastern warblers in s. Idaho. Single Tennessee Warblers stopped near Boise 12 Sep and 7 Oct (MC, FK), Pocatello 27 Sep–6 Oct (MCr, CT), *Twin Falls* 2 Oct (KF), and D.F.N.W.R. 6 Oct (JA, DT). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at M.L.W.M.A. 19 Sep (GR). Magnolia Warblers were at D.F.N.W.R. 3 Oct (BC) and at M.L.W.M.A. 4–6 Oct (GR, m.ob.). Idaho's eighth and ninth **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at A.F.R. 19 Sep (MCr, CT) and near Boise 1 Oct (JA, DT). A Palm Warbler was in Pocatello 27 Sep (MCr). **Blackpoll Warblers** at M.L.W.M.A. 16–19 Sep and 2 Oct (GR) and I.B.O. 23 Sep (JC) provided Idaho's sixth, seventh, and eighth records. A Black-and-White Warbler stopped in Pocatello 2–4 Oct (MCr, CT). The N. Waterthrush captured at I.B.O. 10 Aug (JC) and one in Boise 19 Sep (DT) were rare, but six netted at C.N.W.R. 14 Aug–4 Sep (CT) were less unusual. A few warblers were very late, such as the Yellow-rumped in Missoula, MT, 27–30 Nov (TT) and the Townsend's near Boise 3 Nov (MC, FK). A fem. **Summer Tanager** at D.F.N.W.R. 2 Sep (†JG, DL) furnished Idaho's third record.

Also late were two Chipping Sparrows near Boise 13–17 Oct and a Vesper Sparrow there 2 Nov (MC, FK). Reports of rare and local sparrows included two Brewer's in *Latah*, ID, 8 Aug (KD), a Swamp in Missoula 13 Sep (RN), and six pairs of nesting Lark Buntings in *Jefferson*, ID, 2 Aug (CT). Fewer rare *Zonotrichia* sparrows were reported this season. Only 11 White-throateds were tallied in Idaho and Idaho's Golden-crowneds were down by half from last year. Single Golden-crowneds were reported at I.B.O. 23 Sep (JC), in *Gem* 5–10 Oct (FZ), at D.F.N.W.R. 6 Oct (JG, DT), near Moscow 6 Oct (KD), and near Boise 7–17 Oct (MC, FK). Only one Harris's Sparrow was sighted in Idaho and three were reported in Montana.

Rare in both states, a Rusty Blackbird at C.N.W.R. 28 Nov (MCr) was Idaho's 11th. A record count of *41* sw. Idaho Great-tailed Grackles 28 Aug provided evidence of increasing numbers (JG). Others reported were one–three near A.F.R. throughout the period (MCr, CT) and one at M.L.W.M.A. 10 Oct (GR). Approximately *50* Com. Grackles staged in *Lemhi* 14 Sep (HR), probably the highest Idaho count ever. Both White-winged Crossbills and Com. Redpolls irrupted and were widely reported at locations as far s. as central and se. Idaho. A rare Hoary Redpoll accompanied Com. Redpolls in *Gallatin*, MT, 23 Nov (EA) Two Lesser Goldfinches attending fledglings in *Boise* 20 Aug confirmed breeding in Latilong 18 (MC, FK), a first for sw. Idaho.

ADDENDUM

A belated report featured a **Clay-colored Sparrow,** Idaho's ninth, in *Boundary* 15 Jun 1999 (RD).

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This fall was unusually warm and dry in most areas of the Region. Most areas of the Rockies had little or no snow. *La Niña* appears to cause dry and warm falls throughout the Region. Many birds that normally leave by late September remained well into the fall; northern species also arrived late.

Abbreviations: C.C. *(community college);* C.V.C.G. *(Crow Valley Campground, Weld County, CO);* E.K.W. *(Edness Kimbal Wilkens S.P., WY);* F.C.R.P. *(Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso County, CO);* H.B.V.P. *(Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark County, NV);* S.T.P *(sewage treatment plant);* S.W.A. *(State Wildlife Area);* W.R.G.B. *(Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, Jefferson County, CO).*

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The summering Red-throated Loon at Wolford Mt. Rec. Area, *Grand*, CO, stayed to 12 Sep (v.o.) and one was at Jumbo Res., *Logan*, CO, 27 Nov (PS). There were reports of 25 Pacific Loons from nine counties in e.

Colorado, and a rare west slope individual at Highline Res., *Mesa*, CO, 1 Nov (DWr). In Nevada, three were at Walker L., *Mineral*, 23 Nov (PL, JLD), with one at L. Mead, *Clark*, 25 Nov (PL); also, birds were at L. DeSmet, *Buffalo*, WY, 2 Nov (DF) and one at Willard Bay, UT 23 Nov (MS). Approximately 300 Com. Loon were at Walker L. 23 Nov (PL, JLD). Red-necked Grebes were reported at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV, 30 Sep (TF et al.), Jumbo Res. 10 Oct (RK, BKP), Boulder Res., *Boulder*, CO, 30–31 Oct (SF, SSe, TL, m.ob.) and 7 Nov (DW), and at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, CO, 7–28 Nov (MJ, m.ob.). An early Horned Grebe was at Pyramid L. 6 Sep (GC, MM, TF), with a high count of eight there 30 Sep (TF et al.). Four flightless young W. Grebes, with adults, were at Pyramid L. 6 Sep (GC, MM, TF) and a high count of 4,943 was there 30

Sep (TF et al.). Also at Pyramid L. 6 Sep were four flightless young Clark's Grebes with adults (GC, MM, TF). The summering Brown Pelicans at John Martin Res., *Bent*, CO, remained to 29 Aug (v.o.). Adult Neotropic Cormorants were reported from John Martin Res. 22 Aug (CLW) and at Strauss Cabin L., *Larimer*, CO, 9 Oct (PS). A late Am. Bittern was 10 mi sw. of Casper 14 Nov (CEM). Two Least Bittern were heard at the w. end of John Martin Res. 6 Aug (CLW, JK, SS); breeding may have occurred. A high count of 25 Great Egrets were at Union Res., *Weld*, CO, 9 Sep (DAL). An imm. Little Blue Heron at Lochbuie, *Adams*, CO, 5–27 Aug (CLW, m.ob.). Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported in Colorado, one at L. Cheraw, *Otero*, 29 Aug (BKP, MJ, PH) and one at L. Henry, *Crowley*, 5 Sep (DJ).

Sixty-four Tundra Swans were at Beck L., *Cody*, WY, 6 Nov (DF). An ad. Black **Brant** was at Utah Park, Aurora, *Araphoe*, CO, 16–21 Nov (DB, m.ob.). A pair of Wood Ducks was at Torrance Ranch, n. of Beatty, *Nye*, 10 Sep (KV). Rarely reported in the intermountains of Colorado, a female Greater Scaup was on Windy Gap Res., *Grand*, 21 Oct (DF, TL, RL). A Long-tailed Duck was at Healy Res., *Buffalo*, WY, 2 Nov, (DF) and four were at Soda L., WY, 19 Nov (CEM). Rarely reported in w. Colorado, a female Surf Scoter was at Juniata Res., *Mesa*, 11 Nov (RL) and one was at Rifle Gap Res., 28–30 Nov (KPo, VZ). Also, four were at Soda L. 19–26 Nov (CEM). A White-winged Scoter was at H.B.V.P 30 Oct–7 Nov (JHe, m.ob.), a male was at Soda L. 17 Oct (CEM), and one was at L. Mead off the Las Vegas Marina 26 Nov (PL). An imm. female Black Scoter was at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, CO, 5–28 Nov (MJ, m.ob.), one was at Soda L. 21 Nov (CEM), and an ad. male was at Pueblo Res. 10 Nov (BKP). A Hooded Merganser was at Wolford Mt. Rec. Area, *Grand*, CO, 22 Oct (DF, TL, RL) and five were at H.B.V.P 20–26 Nov (m.ob.). A Red-breasted Merganser was at H.B.V.P 19–20 Nov (m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A **White-tailed Kite** was observed between Cortez and Mancos, *Montezuma*, CO, 5 Nov (EH). Being a single-observer sight record, it will not be accepted as the first Colorado record by the records committee. With the expansion of various bird species, oddities/rarities should be recorded, whether accepted or not by local committees, as long as documentation supports natural occurrence and the correct identification. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were in Colorado, at Boulder 7 Sep (RT) and Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, 2 Oct (DAL). Also, in Nevada singles were n. of Beatty 15 Aug and 15 Sep (KV) and at Big Canyon, Pyramid L., 12 Sep (DS), Crystal Springs, *Lincoln*, 2 Oct (pair; SS), Las Vegas 19 Oct (CT), and Corn Creek, *Clark*, 7 Aug–23 Sep (ad. and imm.; RS). Although observed in all seasons in NV, there are still no nesting records. A Broad-winged Hawk at Grand Jct., *Mesa*, CO, 20 Sep (RL) was w. of normal. Single Merlins were reported from Lemmon Valley Marsh, NV, 23 Oct (JA, TF) and at Carson City, NV, 7 Nov (CGB). A possible Gyrfalcon was reported between Oak Creek and Steamboat Sprs., *Routt*, CO, 13 Nov (M&DM).

A late Black-bellied Plover was at Logandale, Clark, NV, 6 Nov (CT). Am. Golden-Plovers were reported from ne. Colorado at Rd. 48, *Weld*, CO, 13–21 Sep (BBH, TD, m.ob.) and Timnath Res., *Larimer*, CO, 3 Oct (SM), with seven at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, CO, 15 Oct (JR); also, one was at Hawk Springs Res., *Goshen*, WY, 20 Sep (*fide* SS). Rarely reported from Wyoming, three Piping Plovers were at Soda L. 6–13 Aug (CEM). Two Mtn. Plovers were at Carson L., NV, 11 Nov (DS), with six there 28 Nov (NH, JT, LC). Two Solitary Sandpipers were at H.B.V.P, NV, 11 Aug (MCr), one at Blue Diamond, *Clark*, NV, 12 Sep (RSc), and another at Henderson 1–4 Sep (MCr). A late Spotted Sandpiper was at Oxbow Park, NV, 7 Nov (TF). Up to 300 Marbled Godwits were near Morgan, UT, 12 Nov (KE, JRe, VAS). Entirely unexpected, a **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Soda L., WY, 3–17 Oct (CEM). In Colorado, two Ruddy Turnstones were reported, one each in *Bent* and *Weld*; one was at Carson Sink, *Churchill*, NV, 25 Aug (BH). A Red Knot was at Soda L. 8 Aug (CEM). Rare in w. Colorado, a Sanderling was at Wolford Mt. Rec. Area, *Grand*, CO, 19 Sep (TL). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Carson L., 4 Aug (MM), 24 Aug (AC, TF), and 28 Sep (DS); also, one was at Minersville Res., *Beaver*, UT, 8 Aug (PRS). A late Least Sandpiper was at Totten Res., *Montezuma*, CO, 13 Nov (RL). Three late Pectoral Sandpipers were at Rocky Ford S.T.P., *Otero*, CO, 5 Nov (BKP, KH) and in Nevada, 8 were at Moapa, *Clark*, 2 Sep (MCr), four were at H.B.V.P 10 Oct (MCr), and three were at Logandale, *Clark*, 6 Nov (CT). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported in *Weld* 7 Sep (SM). Eight Short-billed Dowitchers were reported in e. Colorado. A **Red Phalarope** molting into basic plumage was w. of Scotty's Junction, *Nye*, 28 Sep (WW, KW); there are fewer than 10 Nevada records. Another in first-basic plumage was at Wheatland Res. No. 2, *Albany*, WY, 30 Sep (*fide* SS).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A dark juv. Pomarine Jaeger was at Standley L., *Jefferson*, CO, 30 Oct–1 Nov (NE, TL, JR, m.ob.), an intermediate juv. was at Pueblo Res. 6 Nov (CFO et al.), and a dark juv. was at Cherry Creek Res., *Araphoe*, CO, 12–28 Nov (BB, m.ob.). A dark-morph juv. Parasitic Jaeger was off Lott Freeway at Carson L. 28 Aug (DS); it was on the water and appeared to be injured or sick. Also, a light ad. Parasitic was at Windsor Res., *Weld*, CO, 18 Oct (SJD, m.ob.) and a juv. at Farmington Bay, UT, 17 Sep and 6 Oct (RJA, KJo). Most unusual was a possible first-summer Laughing ˘ Ring-billed Gull hybrid at John Martin Res. 7 Aug (ph. CLW, JK, SS). Colorado had two Little Gulls this fall, a juv. at Union Res. 5–6 Oct (SJD, m.ob.) and an ad. at Pueblo Res. 27 Nov+ (TL, MJ, PG, BKP). Three Mew Gulls were reported in Colorado, a juv. at Holbrook Res., *Otero*, 17 Oct (MJ) and basic ads. at Union Res. 18–20 Nov (JV, SD) and Cherry Creek Res. 20–21 Nov (SD, JV, PG, m.ob.). In Nevada, Thayer's Gull were reported from Pyramid L. (GS, PL, JLD) and Walker L. (PL, JLD). Colorado had a remarkable six Lesser Black-backed Gulls; this species has to be nesting in North America more commonly than records indicate. Records were of imms. at Timnath Res. 28–31 Aug (PS, SJD, m.ob.) and at Strauss Cabin L. 30 Sep–12 Oct (SJD), adults at Holbrook Res. 27 Sep–4 Oct (MJ, BKP, m.ob.), L. Cheraw, *Otero*, 17 Oct (MJ), and an Baseline Res., *Boulder*, 3 Oct (PP), and a fourth-basic and two second-basic individuals at Warren L., *Larimer*, 14–23 Nov (SJD, JF). The ad. Great Black-backed Gull at John Martin Res. stayed to 13 Sep (v.o.); an imm. was at Timnath Res. 22 Aug (RD, JV), the winter ad. returned to Pueblo Res. 29 Oct+ (BKP, m.ob., ph. GWL), and an ad. was at L. Meredith, *Crowley*, CO, 31 Oct (MJ, BD, BKP). A Glaucous-winged Gull was at Pyramid L. 30 Sep (BH) and a first-basic bird was at Walker L. 23 Nov (PL, JLD). An ad. Glaucous-winged ˘ Western Gull hybrid was at Sutcliffe, Pyramid L., 6 Sep (MM, TF, GC) and possibly again on 30 Sep (TF et al.). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Pueblo Res. 25 Nov (BKP). A Sabine's Gull was at Soda L., *Churchill*, NV, 17 Sep (MM). At Bear R., UT, 3 Sep there were approx. 350 Forster's Terns, 25–30 Caspian Terns, and

Surprisingly (given the dearth of records elsewhere in the West), the Great Black-backed Gull was become an annual visitor to Colorado, where this adult was photographed 8 Nov during its stay from 29 Oct 1999 through the winter at Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo. Photograph/Greg W. Lasley

20 to 25 Black Terns (KE, JRe, VAS). In Colorado, Caspian Terns were reported from John Martin Res., Union Res., Strauss Cabin L., and Holbrook Res. An ad. **Arctic Tern** was at Union Res., CO, 5 Oct (DF, TL).

A Eur. Collared-Dove was observed in e. Pueblo, CO, 27 Sep (MJ). Inca Doves were at Corn Creek 21–31 Aug (m.ob.) and Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, 7 Oct (VAT). A male **Common Ground-Dove** at Jackson Res. 20 Nov (DQ, GE, DFO) provided the first confirmed Colorado record. An E. Screech-Owl was heard at Limon, *Lincoln*, CO, 9 Oct (DAL); Limon is surrounded by miles of plains. A migrant Burrowing Owl was observed at 11,000 ft in *Gilpin*, CO, 26 Sep (BBa, PM). An ad. female Blue-throated Hummingbird was at Black Forest, *El Paso*, CO, 29 Aug (BBH) and the female **Magnificent Hummingbird** in Boulder, CO, stayed to 10 Aug (v.o.). Possibly nesting, a female and two hatched juv. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were at Springfield, Baca, CO, 3 Aug (*fide* DSv). One stayed at a feeder in Reno, *Washoe*, NV, until 26 Oct (GC).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS

At Devil's Tower N.M., WY, 31 Oct–1 Nov, a male Three-toed Woodpecker and three Black-backed Woodpeckers were observed (DF). Nevada had its first confirmed nesting **Pileated Woodpecker** at Chimney Beach Parking Area at L. Tahoe, *Washoe*, 3 Aug (GS, MM). Single Gray Flycatchers were reported from s. of Deckers, CO, 20 Aug (JLD), Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, CO, 19 Sep (MJ), Castlewood Canyon, *Douglas*, CO, 19 Sep (H&UK), and w. of Pueblo 22 Sep (BKP). Great Crested Flycatchers were at Two Buttes Res. 21–27 Aug (BKP, TD) and 14 Sep (BKP, RK), Lamar, CO, 28 Aug (BKP, TD), and Prewitt Res., *Washington*, CO, 4 Sep (DFO). Two juv. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Penrose, *Fremont*, CO, 13 Aug (JWa) and an ad. was near Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, CO, 29–31 Aug (SJD, JF, m.ob.).

A White-eyed Vireo was at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson*, CO, Aug 26–Sep 11 (KS, m.ob). A singing Yellow-throated Vireo was at Highlands Ranch, *Jefferson*, CO, 25 Aug (SS); singles were at F.C.R.P., *El Paso*, CO, 13 Sep (JWe), W.R.G.B. 18 Sep (TD), and Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, CO, 7 Oct (DAL). Single Blue-headed Vireos were at Rocky Mt. Arsenal, *Adams*, CO, 12 Sep (DFO), W.R.G.B. 14–16 Sep (VR, m.ob.), w. of Pueblo 15–18 Sep (BKP, MJ, m.ob.), and Ft. Collins 19 Sep (DAL). Philadelphia Vireos were at Two Buttes Res. 21 Aug (BKP) and Lamar 26 Sep (DAL). Up to three Verdin were observed numerous times 20 Aug–19 Oct at Torrance Ranch, *Nye*, providing the most northern occurrence in Nevada (KV, GC). An early Winter Wren was s. of Pueblo 28 Aug (BBH). A Gray Catbird was banded at Torrance Ranch 22 Sep (KV). A Curve-billed Thrasher was in *Larimer*, CO, 25–28 Aug (CB). Nevada's first **Sprague's Pipit** was observed on the Ft. Mojave Indian Reservation, *Clark*, 26 Nov (PL).

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A male Golden-winged Warbler was at Chatfield Res. 24 Aug (KS) and a female was at W.R.G.B. 14–15 Sep (VR, m.ob.). N. Parulas were at Gros Ventre Campground, e. of Jackson, WY, 22 Aug (LJE) and Corn Creek 23 Sep (CT) and 11 Nov (record late date; RS, CT). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at H.B.V.P 20–26 Nov (PMo, m.ob). A male Magnolia Warbler was at E.K.W. 25 Sep (CEM). Male Cape May Warblers appeared w. of Pueblo 16 Sep (MJ) and in Pueblo City Park 24–25 Oct (DSi, DJ, m.ob.). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Corn Creek 19 Sep (RS), a female was there 9–10 Oct (CT), one was banded at Torrance Ranch 10 Oct (KV), and a male was reported at Eagle, *Eagle*, CO, 24 Sep (JMe). A female Blackburnian Warbler was in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, CO, 18 Nov (DSi). A Grace's Warbler at Rye, *Pueblo*, CO, 17 Aug (DSi) may indicate nesting again in the area. A male Prairie Warbler in *Bent*, CO, 19 Sep (BKP, MJ, BD). Utah's eighth **Palm Warbler** was observed at Lucin, UT, 26 Sep (JRA). Colorado had two Prothonotary Warblers, at Prewitt Res. 8 Sep (TD) and at W.R.G.B. 14 Sep (GW). A Worm-eating Warbler was banded at Lykins Gulch, *Boulder*, CO, mid-Sep (JHa). A late Ovenbird was in *Pueblo* 11–12 Nov (BD, JD) and one was at Corn Creek 5–11 Sep (RS). N. Waterthrushes were at Corn Creek 24 Aug (SSh) and 11 Sep (RS); Big Canyon, Pyramid L., 6–11 Sep (GC, MM, TF, GS); Wheeler Springs, *Clark*, NV, 12 Sep (RSc); Bodyfelt Ranch n. of Tonapah, *Nye*, NV, 18 Sep (MM); and Willard Bay, UT, 13 Sep (MS). Also, two were banded at Torrance Ranch, 10 Sep and 18 Sep (KV). A Black-and-white Warbler was at Corn Creek 11 Sep (DCR). Two Am. Redstarts were at Corn Creek 5–6 Sep (RS) and one was at Wheeler Springs 12 Sep (RSc). A **Kentucky Warbler** was banded at Torrance Ranch 11 Sep, providing the first fall record for Nevada and sixth for the state (KV). Two Hooded Warblers were reported at E.K.W., a female 15 Sep and a male 12 Oct (C. Michelson).

An ad. male Summer Tanager was at Ft. Collins 21–22 Nov (BDi, SJD, JF). A male E. Towhee at Franktown, *Douglas*, CO, 16–17 Oct (HEK, UK) and a female was at Colorado City, CO, 19 Oct (DSi). A bird thought to be Eastern ˇ Spotted Towhee hybrid was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, CO, 17 Sep (BR). In Colorado, Field Sparrows were reported from *Washington*, *Pueblo*, and *Baca*. An ad. **Henslow's Sparrow** in *Sedgwick*, CO, 10 Oct (JK, BKP) would represent the third Colorado record, if accepted. An ad. **Le Conte's Sparrow** was observed (CFO)

within a few minutes in the same area. It seems that walking millet and weed fields in e. Colorado each fall can produce interesting migrant sparrows. A Harris's Sparrow and a Swamp Sparrow were at Indian Springs, *Clark*, NV, 25 Nov (PL). Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported from Nevada and one was banded at Cibolla Creek near Powderhorn, *Gunnison*, CO, 2 Oct (SBo). An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed at C.V.C.G. 1 Oct (DAL) and an imm. was at Ash Creek Res., *Washington*, UT, 24 Oct (PRS).

A Dickcissel was found at Corn Creek 5 Sep (RS). Eight to12 **McCown's Longspur** and a **Lapland Longspur** were at Carson L. 23–28 Nov (JLD, PL, LN, m.ob.), providing the second known occurrence for the Lahontan Valley. Also, two Laplands were at the Ponderosa Diary in Amargosa Valley, *Nye*, 25 Nov (PL). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Crystal Springs 2 Oct (PRS). A late Lazuli Bunting was noted at Corn Creek 27 Nov (RS). Late Bullock's Orioles included an ad. male at Brighton, *Adams*, CO, 29 Nov (MBl) and an imm. male in Lamar, CO, 30 Nov (DAL). Colorado had two Purple Finch reports, one from Two Buttes Res. 26 Oct (DAL) and one from Franktown, *Douglas*, CO, 28–30 Oct (H&UK). A pair of Com. Redpolls was s. of normal at Pueblo Res. 20–28 Nov (BKP, m.ob.). A Lawrence's Goldfinch was at Corn Creek 26 Sep (RS).

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The fall season's weather in Arizona saw extremes at both ends of the spectrum. We watched the second-longest recorded monsoon early in the season change to a record-breaking dry spell from late September throughout the remainder of the period. Warm temperatures also persisted in November with several record highs. The combination of an extremely dry spring and the long rainy season led to an extended breeding season for many birds, especially passerines. Reports of birds feeding young in late September and October seemed to be the norm rather than the exception.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. *(Arizona Bird Committee);* B.W.D. *(Bill Williams Delta);* B.A.N.W.R. *(Buenos Aires N.W.R.);* H.R.P. *(Hassayampa R. Preserve);* L.C.R.V. *(lower Colorado R. Valley);* M.F.L. *(Many Farms L.);* N.I.R. *(Navajo Indian Reservation);* P.A.P. *(Pinal Airpark);* P.R.D. *(Painted Rock Dam);* S.P.R. *(San Pedro R.);* S.T.P. *(sewage treatment plant);* U.A. *(University of Arizona, Tucson);* W.S.F. *(Western Sod Farms, near Friendly Corners).*

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A casual transient away from the L.C.R.V., a Pacific Loon was at Willow L., Yavapai, 19–20 Nov (BT, CT). At least *60* Horned Grebes at L. Havasu 27 Nov (SGa, RMJ, PL, MSM) provided the second-highest number ever for the state; one was also on an e. *Maricopa* pond 30 Nov (MS). A single Clark's Grebe was at the new Tempe Town L. 6 Nov (S. Burge) and two were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 14–20 Nov (MS). Although a regular transient in the L.C.R.V., high concentrations of Am. White Pelican were counted there 6 Nov, with 350 at Mittry L., *Yuma* (D. Taylor) and 1,500 on L. Mohave (SGo). Also, 82 were counted at P.R.D. 23 Oct (SGa, L. Norris). Elsewhere in s. Arizona, individuals or small groups were noted at Arizona City, *Pinal*, 3 Sep–2 Oct and around Tucson 8–18 Oct. Only two Brown Pelicans were reported, at Tucson 4 Sep (C. Van Hampton) and at B.W.D. 27–30 Nov (PL et al). The northward expansion of Neotropic Cormorants the past few years

continued this fall. One was at Willow L. 9 Aug–12 Oct (BT) and another or the same was at nearby Watson L. 16 Aug–12 Oct (CT). *Maricopa* had its highest number ever: 13 along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 23 Oct (TC). Rare in the se., Am. Bitterns were along the Santa Cruz R. near Tucson 16 Sep (RH) and at Green Valley S.T.P. 10–12 Nov (S. Johnsen, D. Touret). Prior to 1996 there were only six records of the Reddish Egret for the state. Remarkably, in the last four years an additional four have been documented. If accepted by the A.B.C., an imm. at L. Mohave 30 Sep (†SGo) will be the 10th state record. Seldom found in n. Arizona, two Cattle Egrets were at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR), while another report of 22 at Willow L. (CT, BT) 3–16 Sep represented one of the highest counts ever for that region. Fifty-three Black-crowned Night-Herons at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR) was the highest count ever for N.I.R. The White Ibis present since summer at Nogales was last seen 15 Sep (MS). Almost annual in s. Arizona, usually along the Gila or Colorado Rivers, Wood Storks were again present, with four at Imperial N.W.R. 7 Aug (TM, JV).

A concentration of 40–50 Black Vultures sw. of Phoenix 30 Oct (TC) was well n. of their normal range. Gr. White-fronted Geese were found in relatively good numbers this year, with 60 reported from nine different locations; the highest totals were 10 at Ajo S.T.P. 13 Sep and 38 at Green Valley 14 Sep (RP). A Ross's Goose was at Tres Rios Maricopa 20 Nov (TC) and another was at the Page S.T.P. 15–19 Nov (CL). Wood Ducks away from urban areas are always a nice find in s. Arizona; this fall individuals were at Kingfisher Pond, *Cochise,* 10 Nov (*fide* DK) and on the Gila R. Indian Reservation 30 Nov (MS). One at Wahweap 29–30 Nov (CL) provided one of the latest reports from the north. The only Com. Goldeneye reported away from the Colorado R. was the male with an injured wing that summered at P.R.D. (and had been present since the invasion of winter 1998/9); it was last seen in early Sep (*fide* SGa). A male Hooded Merganser was at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 20 Nov (MS). In Arizona, Red-breasted Mergansers are only found consistently along the L.C.R.V. and adult males are especially rare away from the river; therefore, one at Green Valley S.T.P. 12 Nov (RP) was unusual. Additional reports of imm. males/females away from the river were five at Nogales S.T.P. 22 Oct (MS), one to two at Avra Valley S.T.P. 5–14 Nov (MS), and another four at Green Valley S.T.P. 19 Nov (C. Dewaard).

Two White-tailed Kites were at the Imperial N.W.R. 5 Aug (JV, TM) and four others were seen irregularly during the period along the Gila R. drainage in w. *Maricopa.* An early N. Harrier was in e. *Maricopa* 4 Aug (RW). The Red-shouldered Hawk present since Apr at H.R.P. was last reported 8 Aug (NM). The excitement of this summer's first state-record **Short-tailed Hawk** continued into fall with both the light- and dark-morph individuals reported sporadically through 4 Sep (*fide* MS). Amazingly, another light-morph bird was reported from near Onion Saddle in the Chiricahua Mts. 22 Aug (CBe), the same location where one was reported in spring. For the third year in a row a Merlin of the *suckleyi* race returned to the Sulphur Springs Valley 17 Oct (SW, TW). For the second year in a row a Crested Caracara was near Sierra Vista, e. of its normal range, this year's from Hereford 25 Oct (R. Heard); interestingly, last year's report was 22 Oct.

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Clapper Rails are thought to depart most of Arizona for coastal Sonora and farther s. by the end of Oct; therefore, one calling along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 20 Nov (TC) was noteworthy. Quality shorebird habitat can be difficult to come by in Arizona, especially in the southern deserts, so birders seldom have the combination of both quality habitat and exciting migrant species that makes traveling through the 110°F temperatures worthwhile. Although this year did not live up to years like 1993, slowly receding water level below P.R.D. attracted many observers as well as exciting birds. An uncommon transient statewide, Black-bellied Plover is always noteworthy. Two were at P.R.D. 31 Aug (RD), singles were at Tucson 26 Sep (MS), Willcox 28 Sep (RP), and El Mirage Pond 2 Oct (CBa), and up to four were at Paloma Ranch 7–23 Oct (m.ob.). Am. Golden-Plovers were found in above-average numbers this fall, with individuals at three different locations: W.S.F. 27 Sep (ph. MS, RH), Willcox 14 Oct (RH), and El Mirage Pond 16 Oct (†TC). Rare in n. Arizona and irregular elsewhere, a Snowy Plover was found at Tuba City S.T.P. 5 Sep (CL, RR) and two more were below P.R.D. 29 Aug–19 Sep (RMJ). Five Black-necked Stilts were at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR); they are rare in the north and seldom there in groups.

This fall saw fewer than normal reports of Willet, with only three reports received. Two were at El Mirage Pond 28 Aug (CBa), a dozen were reported below P.R.D. 20 Aug, and one was at W.S.F. 5 Sep (MAP). The shorebird of the season was the **Upland Sandpiper** discovered at W.S.F. Aug 16 (ph. RH); there have been only four previous state records in the 20th Century; like all the others, this one did not linger. Three Marbled Godwits were found in w. *Maricopa* 29 Aug–14 Sep (RMJ, CBa); the only other report from Page S.T.P. 8–13 Sep (CL et al). A report that attracted observers to P.R.D. this fall was that of four Red Knots discovered 29 Aug (RMJ); one was still present 6 Sep (RD) and another was found at Round Rock 14 Sep (ph. GHR). Sanderlings moved through Arizona on a broad front this fall; reports of eight birds came from M.F.L. to Nogales, all between 21 Aug and 25 Sep. This season saw some high shorebird counts at P.R.D. Interesting numbers included 40 Baird's Sandpipers 29 Aug (RMJ),

A rare species inland in western North America, this Red Phalarope visited a park in Tucson, Arizona, 27–31 Oct 1999, where it obliged this photo 29 Oct. Photograph/Mark Stevenson

Representing the most recent of about a dozen Arizona records was this L. c. brachyrhynchus Mew Gull in Basic I plumage at Lake Havasu City, 27–30 Nov 1999 (the photo was taken on the first date). Photograph/Paul Lehman

17 Pectoral Sandpipers 19 Sep (RMJ), and 44 Stilt Sandpipers there 19 Sep (RMJ), all representing unusually high counts for the state. The Stilt Sandpiper count was perhaps the highest number ever for Arizona; another 20 were at El Mirage Pond 3 Oct (PM, TC). Short-billed Dowitchers were widely reported; we received eight reports, with highs of four at P.R.D. 12 Sep (RP) and three at El Mirage Pond 16 Oct (TC). A single Red Phalarope was reported 27–31 Oct at Reid Park, Tucson (D. West).

Arizona recorded its fifth and sixth records of Pomarine Jaeger this fall. An adult was found at a pond on Paloma Ranch 8–12 Oct (ph. B. Grossi, ph. JBu, v.r. GHR) and an imm. was picked up along Hwy. 89 n. of Flagstaff 11 Nov (CL, *U.A.). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was reported at B.W.D. 26 Nov (†CBa, SS); if accepted it would represent one of the latest records for the state. A Mew Gull in Basic I plumage was at L. Havasu 27–30 Nov (SGa, RMJ, ph. PL, ph. MSM); there are about 12 previous state records. Interesting reports of Herring Gulls included individuals at the "jaeger" pond on Paloma Ranch 8 Oct (v.r. GHR, MS), one 6 Nov at Tempe Town L. (S. Burge), and two (Basic I and Basic III) at B.W.D. 26 Nov (CBa, SS). Sabine's Gull seems to have become a regular fall migrant in small numbers during the last decade. This year at least three imm. birds were reported, one each at Sierra Vista S.T.P. 16–17 Sep (T. Godfrey), Willcox 18–25 Sep (ph. MS; perhaps the same bird), and Sunrise L. in the White Mts. 16 Sep (GHR). Notable Black Tern reports were 30 at Whitewater Draw 20 Aug (RH) and 12 at Ganado L. 4 Sep (CL, RR).

Band-tailed Pigeons are rarely found at low elevations, so one present in early Nov at Fountain Hills, *Maricopa*, (S. Galliziolli) was significant. Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys conducted by state and federal agencies 15 Jun–19 Aug on state, federal, and private lands located 172 pairs and 81 unmated adults, for a total of 425 individuals. Many additional birds likely breed on private property that was not accessible. This species is under consideration for being listed as an endagered species in the West. Short-eared Owls are irregularly found in Arizona and they infrequently stay put once found. This year up to five were often easily seen in the San Rafeal Valley 9 Oct+ (NC et al.). A late Com. Nighthawk was discovered 12 Oct at Page (J. Alston). A Com. Poorwill was found at the high elevation of 8,000 ft. in Flagstaff 5 Oct (J. Hildebrand).

A Broad-billed Hummingbird, a rare visitor anywhere in the state away from the se., wandered n. to Scottsdale 19–20 Sep (M. Larson). White-eared and Berylline Hummingbird reports continued from Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mts. early in the period and the interesting probable hybrid Berylline ˘ Magnificent Hummingbird, present at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon since the spring, was last reported 26 Sep (NC). Three Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported, a female was along the upper S.P.R. 28 Aug (SW, TW), a male at Bisbee 15–17 Oct (J. Whetstone), and another individual at the Beatty's 4 Sep (RP). Eared Trogon invasions into Arizona are tied to, at least in part, availability of madrone berries and other food sources. A male in Cave Creek Canyon 10–28 Nov (JBo et al.) was feeding on madrone berries; this year's extended and moist monsoon season resulted in a good berry crop (in Arizona at least). A Green Kingfisher was along Sonoita Creek upstream of Patagonia L. 10 Nov (JBo); after becoming almost regular in the state during the past decade numbers have dropped markedly, making sightings of this wanderer from Mexico significant. Lewis's Woodpeckers staged a mini-invasion into the lowlands this fall; one was at Camp Cr., *Maricopa*, 19 Sep (TC) and up to nine were counted at Oak Flat campground, *Pinal*, 26 Nov+. Several Acorn Woodpeckers were noted at lower than normal elevations as well. One was at Whitlow Dam 18 Aug (JBa), nine were at B.T.A. 14 Sep (CT), and two more were in Scottsdale 16 Sep (JBa). About normal for a fall season, three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported, with individuals at B.T.A. 17 Oct (RH), Coon Bluff, *Maricopa*, 19 Oct (J. Taylor), and Wahweap 15 Nov (CL). Unusual was the Strickland's Woodpecker found ne. of Carefree, *Maricopa*, 6 Aug (C. Wise), one of few reports in the state away from preferred habitat. Interestingly, another was found along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson (WR). Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported at B.T.A. 14 Nov (JBa) and Oak Flat campground 24 Nov (RD, C. Fisher).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

A N. Beardless-Tyrannulet along lower Camp Creek n. of Phoenix 19 Sep (TC) provided only the second *Maricopa* record. Intriguing was a report of Least Flycatcher from M.F.L. 4 Sep (CL, RR); Arizona has only a handful of reliable reports and few well-documented ones, so we strongly urge observers to photograph any potential Least Flycatcher! Although E. Phoebes are likely a regular wintering species in s. Arizona (in small numbers), most are discovered on Christmas Bird Counts. This fall, one was at L. Patagonia S.P. 10 Nov (MS). Both a female and imm. female Vermilion Flycatcher were at Page 11–15 Nov (CL), suggesting again that the species bred locally. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at B.T.A. 23 Aug–14 Sep (CT, RD, RMJ, SGa) was well n. of this species' normal distribution. Another at L. Patagonia 22 Oct (MS) was considered late for the southeast. Also quite late was a Brown-crested Flycatcher reported from B.T.A. 7 Oct (B. Demaree, L. Hatcher). Somewhat intriguing was a report of a "heard-only" *Great Kiskadee* along the upper S.P.R. 4 Aug (J. Withgott, C. Brady); this makes two of the past three years that competent observers have either glimpsed or heard what they thought was a kiskadee at that location. A late Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was in Sycamore Canyon 3 Oct (NC). The distribution of Tropical Kingbird in s. Arizona is not well understood; therefore, a pair, presumably nesting in the

trees at the n. end of W.S.F. at least 17–24 Aug (GHR, MS), was noteworthy and provided yet another location along the Santa Cruz R. drainage where the species has been found. North of its normal range and quite late was a Thick-billed Kingbird at Whitlow Dam, e. of Mesa, 21 Sep (JBa). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Huachuca City 3 Oct (L. Craft) remained reliably there through 12 Oct (RP, C. Fisher).

N. Shrikes, an irregular fall and winter visitor to n. Arizona, were reported from Grand Canyon Village 29 Oct (CL), along Hwy. 160 on 10 Nov (CL), and at Mormon L. 14–30 Nov (RP, R. Widner, A. Van Auken). Bell's Vireos were still feeding young at B.T.A. 18 Sep (RMJ) and along Lower Camp Cr. 19 Sep (TC), both incredibly late dates. A Gray Vireo was reported from Kino Springs 26 Sep (NC); there remains no physical documentation of migrant individuals away from the breeding grounds in Arizona, despite sight reports almost annually. Still casual in the state during fall, a Yellow-throated Vireo was reported from B.T.A. 25 Sep (CBa, SS). Certainly a better find was a Philadelphia Vireo in sw. Phoenix 16 Oct (†TC), providing only a fifth *Maricopa* record. The only Red-eyed Vireo this fall was along the upper S.P.R. 13 Aug (RH); once thought of as a rare- but-regular early fall migrant in the state, this species has become decidedly casual during the past 20 years.

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Both Steller's Jay and Am. Crow staged mini-invasions into lowland areas Oct and Nov, but numbers of both fizzled out as the fall progressed. The Carolina Wren near Dudleyville that provided Arizona with its first record was last reported 2 Sep (D. Laush). No fewer than 13 Winter Wrens were reported (most from Nov) throughout the state; there is still some question as to which subspecies winters in the state—it is likely that both Eastern and Western birds are involved. Perhaps one of the more reliable locations to find Rufous-backed Robin in late fall and winter is B.T.A. This fall, one–two were there beginning 7 Nov (JBa, m.ob.). Elsewhere, one was at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum w. of Tucson 4–6 Nov (J. Krebs et al.) and another was at Tonto Verde, *Maricopa*, 20 Nov (R. Jetson). Still casual anywhere in the state, a Varied Thrush was reported from Sabino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., 3 Nov (M. Klinkle). Brown Thrashers, rare in the state, were in Scottsdale 18 Oct+ (JBa) and in Red Rock S.P. 23–29 Oct (*fide* SGa).

A Golden-winged Warbler at Madera Canyon 1–3 Nov (†MS) provided about the 12th record for the se. portion of the state. The only Tennessee Warbler report was from Whitlow Dam 8 Sep (JBa). Single N. Parulas were at Topock Marsh 15–23 Nov (RH, N. Miller) and at Lee's Ferry 21–30 Nov (CL), the latter providing only a fourth N.I.R. report. A female Chestnut-sided Warbler was along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 17 Nov (WR). Casual in the state during fall, three Black-throated Blue Warblers were found, a male on Mt. Lemmon 10 Oct (S. Birkey), a female in Tucson 18 Nov (S. Birkey), and another male at Katherine's Landing 26 Nov (PL). Outstanding was yet another **Prairie Warbler,** providing an eighth state record; this individual was photographed at Topock Marsh 27 Nov (PL, MSM). Only one Palm Warbler was reported, along the upper S.P.R. 1 Oct (S. Anderson). Black-and-white Warbler reports included individuals below Madera Canyon 11 Sep (NC), in Scottsdale 15 Oct (JBa), at Kino Springs 19 Oct (P. Saloman), and at Wahweap 7 Nov (C. Goetze). At least five different reports of Am. Redstarts were received, about normal for a fall season. Prothonotary Warbler reports included one at Patagonia 4–5 Sep (M. Brown) and one at B.T.A. 13–14 Sep (SGa, CT, RMJ); it is no longer a review species in the state. Also recently removed as a review species, but still only casual, is Worm-eating Warbler; one was at Becker L. 6 Sep (CBa). Individual Ovenbirds were seen at Katherine's Landing 10 Oct (RH) and at Patagonia 18 Oct (NC). Only four N. Waterthrushes, below normal, were reported from this fall. More interesting and north of most reports in the state was a Louisiana Waterthrush along Queen Cr. near B.T.A. 7 Nov (MS). Certainly the warbler of the season was another **Rufous-capped Warbler** in French Joe Canyon 20 Nov+ (K. Kertell); it was in basically the same location as the bird present during 1995–1996, begging the question as to whether it was the same individual.

SPARROWS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Prescott 19 Sep (†CT) provided a first local record of this rare migrant in Arizona. Well n. of its normal wintering range in the state, a Baird's Sparrow was reported from Prescott 16–24 Oct (CT). A basic-plumaged male **Lapland Longspur** was n. of Topock Marsh 27 Nov (RMJ, SGa); amazingly, there are still few state records—it is almost certain that the paucity is not indicative of the species' true status in the state. Late was a Varied Bunting feeding young at Patagonia 9 Oct (NC). No fewer than eight (above average) Painted Buntings were found this fall. Conversely, only three Dickcissels were reported; one at Pasture Canyon 5 Sep (RR, CL) provided a seventh N.I.R. report. It was a better than average year for Bobolinks, with one in Prescott 11 Sep and four there 25–29 Sep (CT), one along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 11 Sep (J.&S. Levy), and one along the upper S.P.R. 30 Sep (B. Stocku). This fall was not spectacular for Lawrence's Goldfinches, but there were moderate numbers at several se. Arizona locations between Tucson and Nogales; a high count of 70 or more came from n. of Continetal 14 Nov+ (RP, m.ob.).

EXOTIC AND LIBERATED BIRDS

Peach-faced Lovebirds, now established and rapidly becoming a pest in the Phoenix metro area, were found at several new e. *Maricopa* locations this year (*fide* TC, JW). Another African exotic trying to grab a foothold in Arizona, Orange Bishop was reported at two e. *Maricopa* locations (T. Gatz) and at the Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson (B. Hunt). For the second year in row White-collared Seedeaters were reported in s. Arizona. This year two males, descriptions of which fit the w. Mexico race, were feeding on tall grasses near the Hereford Bridge along S.P.R 22 Aug.

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Only the eighth to be recorded in New Mexico, this American Woodcock was at Albuquerque 28 Nov 1999. Photograph/David Bernitsky

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The generous summer rains continued well into September and were followed by a mild autumn; this combination encouraged late breeding by some species, provided favorable conditions for migrants (especially shorebirds), and set the wild-food table for resident, transient, and wintering species alike. A downside to these conditions was serious botulism outbreaks in the Uvas Valley and near Garfield that together claimed over 2,000 birds of 12 families.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. *(Bitter Lake N.W.R.);* Bosque N.W.R. *(Bosque del Apache N.W.R.);* E.B.L. *(Elephant Butte Lake);* L.V.N.W.R. *(Las Vegas N.W.R.);* N.R.T. *(north Roosevelt Co. migrant trap near Melrose);* R.S. *(Rattlesnake Springs including adjacent Washington Ranch, Eddy Co.);* R.G.V. *(Rio Grande Valley);* Zuni *(Zuni Indian Reservation).*

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A relatively quiet loon season found three Pacifics at Ute L. 16 Nov (WH); early was a Common at Brantley L. 21 Sep (MS, JZ). Grebes were among the waterbirds that benefited from the summer rains, including young Pied-billeds at Bill Evans L. 11 Aug (LM) and Pied-billed and Eared chicks at Black L., *Colfax*, 17 Aug (SOW, PM). The estimated 5,000 Western Grebes (only two Clark's noted) at the Narrows 24 Oct (SOW, PM) underscored the importance of E.B.L. to this taxon. At L.V.N.W.R., one of a pair of Clark's Grebes was carrying two chicks 11 Sep (HS, NV) and other young were in evidence there 31 Oct (CR). An Am. Bittern at B.L.N.W.R. on various dates 29 Oct–12 Nov (GW, SW) furnished the only report; the high count for Leasts was eight at Tucumcari L. 25 Aug (WW). Moderate numbers of White-faced Ibises were widespread Aug–early Oct, including 100 in the Uvas Valley, *Luna*, 24 Sep (CR), where 40 had succumbed to botulism by 22 Sep (U.S.F.W.S.). Very late Turkey Vultures were one at Caballo L. 5 Nov (MS, JZ) and three near Columbus 22 Nov (LM); the species winters in nearby n. Chihuahua. Two presumably wild **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** put in a brief appearance at Holloman L. 1 Oct (GE). Peripherial Wood Ducks included eight at Conchas Dam 26 Oct (NV), three at Ft. Sumner 30 Oct (JO), two at Deming 27 Oct (LM), and one at Holloman L. 10 Oct (DE, BN); some 200 hand-fed Woodies were at Rio Grande Nature Center 20 Oct (NP). **Ring-necked Duck** was added to the list of New Mexico breeding species when a female and two pre-flight young were found at Nutria L. 22 Aug (JT); an eclipse male was also present.

An impressive seven **Surf Scoters** made a brief stop at B.L.N.W.R. 9 Nov (CR, GW); a single Surf at Conchas L. 14 Nov (WH) provided the only additional report. Very early was a Bufflehead at B.L.N.W.R. 3 Sep (GW). Late were single Ospreys at Brantley L. 2 Nov (SW) and Percha 28 Nov (DE, BN). A White-tailed Kite was near Hachita 26 Sep (AC, NMC). Two ad. Bald Eagles at Stubblefield L. 7 Aug (JO) were likely local *Colfax* breeders. Of great interest for the lower Pecos Valley was a Com. Black-Hawk at R.S. 26 Sep(SW); also noteworthy was an imm. that visited Clanton Cienega, Animas Valley, 14 Oct (AC, NMC). Harris's Hawk discoveries in the lower R.G.V. included a nest with one young at Truth or Consequences 30 Nov (S. Kendall) and an adult at Hatch 24–26 Nov (T. Lawton, CR); another was in w. *Doña Ana* 17 Sep (S.&W. Hill). The 12 Broad-winged Hawks that passed the Manzano Mountains hawkwatch lookout 30 Aug–10 Oct (H.W.I.) suggested an increasing trend; in the east, imms. were at Portales 5 Oct (WW), Boone's Draw 25 Sep (JEP, JO), and Tatum 11 Sep (DE, BN). Indicating their preference for the ranchers' favorite rodent were eight Ferruginous Hawks at a prairie dog town near McDonald, *Lea*, 22 Oct (JO). Only 14 Merlins passed the Manzano lookout 15 Sep–4 Nov (H.W.I.), but the species was widespread elsewhere in the east and south. A juv. Peregrine Falcon was observed chasing (and occasionally catching) butterflies above the Manzano Mts. 3 Sep (LS); another was an Uvas Valley botulism victim (U.S.F.W.S.) and late was one near Columbus 30 Nov (LM).

PTARMIGAN THROUGH TERNS

Six White-tailed Ptarmigan on the n. flank of Wheeler Peak 20 Sep (E. Rominger) provided evidence for the persistence of that northerly population. The season's first Sandhill Cranes passed over the Manzano Mts. 29 Sep (LS). An Internet report of 12 Whooping Cranes in s. *Curry* 23 Nov was judged doubtful; the species has never been confirmed in e. New Mexico. Black-bellied Plovers made a good showing at several locales including B.L.N.W.R., where present 21 Aug–19 Nov (v.o.) with a high of eight 24 Sep (GW). Noteworthy for the Guadalupe Mts. were six Snowy Plovers at Queen

L. 19 Aug (SW). Late was a Semipalmated Plover at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Oct (GW). The 100 Mountain Plovers near Star L., *McKinley*, 26 Aug (A. Crateau) was a large concentration for nw. New Mexico. Solitary Sandpipers were restricted to the w., with one to three at seven sites 1 Aug–24 Sep (v.o.), including three each at Zuni 28 Aug (JT) and Holloman L. 1 Sep (GE). A respectable 15 Willets were at the Lordsburg playa 13 Aug (JO); one–four others were at L.V.N.W.R., B.L.N.W.R., Isaack's L., or Holloman L. 7 Aug–1 Oct (v.o.). Green prairies of New Mexico hosted impressive numbers of migrant Upland Sandpipers, including 370 in the Carlsbad area 5 Aug–15 Sep, with a one-day high of 73 on 22 Aug (SW); w. to the R.G.V. were eight at San Antonio 19 Aug (JO), one to two at E.B.L. 15 and 18 Aug (JO), one at Isaack's L. 15 Aug (JO), and 44 in Mesilla Valley 21 Aug (MS, JZ). Long-billed Curlews likewise found favorable conditions, with high counts of 510 near Portales 2 Oct (JO), 300 at Hagerman 20 Sep (DS), and 250 near Lovington 16 and 22 Oct (JO). An imm. **Ruddy Turnstone** at L. Isabel 12 Oct (WW) furnished a *San Miguel* first. Similarly rare, a **Red Knot** was at E.B.L. 24 Nov (ph. JO). Far w. were single juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers at Blackrock L. 22 Aug and Bluewater L. 25 Aug (JT). A high 14 Pectoral Sandpipers were in the Uvas Valley 24 Sep (CR). Impressive numbers of Stilt Sandpipers visited B.L.N.W.R. 21 Aug–15 Oct, including 108 on 24 Sep (GW) and a late one 19 Nov (GW); w. were singles in the Uvas Valley 24 Sep (CR) and at Deming 1 Oct (LM). Well-described was a juv. **Ruff** at Nutria L. 22 Aug (JT); there are but three previous (one certain) New Mexico reports. The one to three **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Bosque N.W.R. 9–12 Sep (JO, WH) were refreshingly well described. An **American Woodcock** at Albuquerque 28 Nov (ph. D. Bernitsky) provided New Mexico's eighth well-documented record. Red-necked Phalaropes where rarely reported included five at Pescado L. 11–12 Sep (ph. DC), three in the Uvas Valley 24 Sep (CR), and two to four at Isaack's L. 4–10 Sep (DE, BN, LM). Very rare, single **Red Phalaropes** were at L.V.N.W.R. 20 Oct (WW) and Holloman L. 9 Oct (DE, BN). Notably early was a Franklin's Gull at Tucumcari 25 Aug (WW). A probable Thayer's Gull was at Brantley L. 23 Oct (vt. JO) and 2 Nov (SW). A juv. Sabine's Gull at B.L.N.W.R. 19 Sep (DS) provided the lone report. Undetailed reports of Com. Terns came from Sumner L., B.L.N.W.R., Brantley L. and E.B.L. 18–28 Sep (v.o.).

SA Documented natural occurrences of **Aplomado Falcons** have increased dramatically in s. New Mexico during the past decade, including birds photographed in *Otero* (1991), *Socorro* (1992), and *Doña Ana* (1996) plus additional credible reports from those and adjacent counties each year from 1990–98. This observed increase coincided with discovery of previously unknown breeding populations in adjacent n. Chihuahua. This season proved especially exciting, with at least five convincing reports of naturally occurring birds from three counties (discounted are a questionable Internet report from Holloman L. in early Aug and another sighting at Akela, e. *Luna*, mid-Oct). Earliest was one seen chasing sparrows and perched e. of Las Cruces 3 Aug (M. Hakkila), followed by an ad. at nearby Isaack's L. 31 Aug–4 Sep (v.o., phs. JO, JZ, vt. W. Hill). Concurrently, near Muzzle L., w. *Doña Ana*, an unbanded juv. was well-described 3 Sep; it had given a falconer's captive Merlin a "near-death" experience (P. Jungemann). Subsequently, another juv. was found on Otero Mesa 11–18 Sep (R. Meyer); importantly, it was banded as a wild nestling in n. Chihuahua in May 1999 (*fide* R. Meyer, A. Montoya). Finally, another was described three mi s. of Hachita, *Grant*, 5 Oct (M. Hakkila). Threatening this apparent natural recolonization of historic range by wild birds of local origin, however, are efforts by private groups and some agencies to initiate releases of captive-bred falcons (of se. Mexico origin) into s. New Mexico.

DOVES THROUGH FLICKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves strengthened their grip on e. New Mexico, with singles at Ft. Sumner and nearby Bosque Redondo 18, 24, and 25 Sep (JEP, JO), N.R.T. 9 Oct. (JEP, JO), Portales 6 Sep (ph. JO), and Texico 11 Sep (ph. JO), plus 18 at Roswell 26 Oct (GE) and seven at Jal 23 Oct (ph. JO); w. was one at Rio Rancho 3–30 Nov (*fide* HS). White-winged Doves consolidated their hold on the ne. with seven at Ute L. and 11 at Logan 25 Sep (JO). A Com. Ground-Dove at Isaack's L. 8 Sep (LM) furnished the only report. Far e. was a Flammulated Owl roosting at N.R.T. 2 Oct (JEP), where there was a Long-eared Owl 9 and 22 Oct (JEP, ph. JO). A dying Spotted Owl was found near Cloudcroft 14 Aug (*fide* R. Dickerman); noteworthy was one heard in the Manzano Mts. 22 Oct (LS) that quickly became silent upon attracting the attention of a Great Horned Owl. Two roosting Short-eared Owls were found at Chaco Canyon 6 Nov (H. Smith); elsewhere one was n. of Lordsburg 26 Nov (CR) and another was hit by a car near Hachita 23 Oct (MS, JZ). A vocal Whip-poor-will was n. to the Zuni Mts. 23 Aug (JT). The Jemez Mts. Black Swift colony had seven nests, each with one nestling, 25 Aug (HS, NV). A *Chaetura* swift was over the Gila R. near Riverside 8 Oct (RS). Benefiting from the generally lush conditions, hummingbirds were described by some as present in "astonishing" numbers. Among the rarer hummers were a male Broad-billed e. to the White Sands Missile Range housing area, *Doña Ana*, Oct–Nov (D. Holderman), a Blue-throated in the Animas Valley 16 Oct (AC, NMC), and a Magnificent e. to Carlsbad 27 Aug (SW). Far e. was a Calliope at Clayton 5 and 25 Aug (WC *fide* LF). A notable movement of Lewis's Woodpeckers was documented in the Manzano Mts., where 121 were tallied 29 Aug–11 Oct, including highs of 21 on 20 Sep and 27 on 8 Oct (LS). Westerly Red-headed Woodpeckers were singles at Stubblefield L. 21 Sep (RW) and Las Cruces 20 Nov (GE); e. was an Acorn at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Sep (GW) and a Williamson's Sapsucker near Nara Visa 9 Oct (JO). Two probable Three-toed Woodpeckers in the Pinos Altos Mts. 19 Sep (LM) were at the s. fringe of the distribution. Flickers with yellow feathers were scattered from Clayton to the Animas Valley; that none were accused of being "Gildeds" showed admirable restraint on the part of eager listers.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

A Least Flycatcher was w. to Sumner Dam 6 Sep (JO); another was at Caprock 14 Sep (DE, BN). Two possible **Buff-breasted Flycatchers** in Clanton Canyon 18 Aug (LM) were not relocated in subsequent days. Far ne. was a Black Phoebe at Clayton L. 26 Sep (ph. JO). E. Phoebes were unusually conspicuous w. to the R.G.V.; farther afield was one near Riverside, *Grant*, 5 Nov (RS). Vermilion Flycatchers have become a fixture ne. to Conchas L., where one to two continued in evidence 25–28 Sep (JO, WH). Single Great Crested Flycatchers were at Endee, *Quay*, 11 Sep (ph. JO), near Clovis

11 Sep (JO), and at N.R.T. 18 Sep (JEP, ph. JO). Late-nesting Cassin's Kingbirds were "carrying food" at R.S. 2 Aug (SW) and in the Animas Mts. 6 Aug (AC, NMC). Lingering Western Kingbirds were one at St. Varian 22 Oct (JO) and three at Hermanas 21 Oct (SOW). An Eastern Kingbird was w. to Zuni 27 Aug (JT). Early was a N. Shrike at L.V.N.W.R. 23 Oct (JEP); e. were singles at Conchas L. 6 and 14 Nov (JEP, JO, WH) and s. *Curry* 21 Nov (J. Lofton), while s. was one at Bosque N.W.R. 11 and 14 Nov (WH, ph. JO). At least one **White-eyed Vireo** was at R.S. 3 Oct (JO). Late was a Bell's Vireo at Caballo Dam 27 Nov (JEP); upriver, three were banded at San Marcial 9–23 Sep (HW). Presumed Blue-headed Vireos were singles at Zuni 18 Sep (DC), Bosque Redondo 9 Oct (JEP), Frio Draw, *Curry*, 11 Sep (JO), Milnesand 5 Sep (JO), and R.S. 24 Oct (vt. JO). A probable **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Sumner Dam 2 Oct (DE, BN). Blue Jays wandered w. in Oct to the R.G.V. and environs, including Los Alamos, Albuquerque, Tijeras, Manzano Mts., Veguita, and Socorro (v.o.); another strayed to Silver City mid-Oct (*fide* R. Fisher). Clark's Nutcrackers in peripherial areas included 12 in the Manzano Mts. 6 Sep (WH) and "large numbers" there in late Oct (LS), plus one–two at San Mateo Peak 10 Oct (HS). Interesting were several Tree and Barn Swallows eating Russian olives at L.V.N.W.R. 11 Sep (HS, NV), as were some 270 Cave Swallows roosting in sorghum fields near Carlsbad 14–15 Aug (SW). A moderate flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches found small numbers e. to the Clayton, Melrose, Portales, and Carlsbad areas (v.o.). Single Winter Wrens were at N.R.T. 9, 16, and 28 Oct (JEP, JO, WH), near Tatum 16 Oct (ph. JO), and at Hondo Falls, Sandia Mts., 22 Oct (DE); two were near Redrock 27 Nov (CR). Rarely reported, a **Sedge Wren** was at Bosque N.W.R. 11 Nov (WH).

SA Reports of **Carolina Wrens** in New Mexico have been on the rise for several years and recently the species has found the middle R.G.V. much to its liking. In 1998, a juvenile of unknown origin was banded at Albuquerque. This year, at Socorro's Riverine Park, JO located a pair carrying nest material into a stump 5–6 Aug, tending the nest 19 Aug, and carrying food to the nest 1–2 Sep. A family group, including at least two juvs., was seen 9 Sep (CR) and JO photographed two to three fledglings 15 Sep, establishing the first New Mexico breeding for the species. As fate would have it the stump was removed by maintenance crews in late Sep. Yet another Carolina was at R.S. on various dates 22 Aug (ph. JO) to 24 Oct (v.o.).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS

Golden-crowned Kinglets were much in evidence in several smaller mountain ranges and in submontane areas. Far e. were three Western Bluebirds near Eunice 23 Oct (ph. JO). A **Varied Thrush** at Fruitland 20 Nov (ph. TR) provided a *San Juan* first; there are fewer than a dozen New Mexico reports. Noteworthy Gray Catbirds were one in Las Huertas Canyon 14 Sep (WH), possibly a first for the Sandia Mts., and one to two at Socorro 19 Aug–14 Sep (JO), including one "carrying food" on the latter date. Late was a N. Mockingbird at Clayton 24 Nov (LF). Single Brown Thrashers w. to the R.G.V. were singles at Corrales 24 Oct (WH), Los Lunas 8 Sep (CR), Socorro 2 Nov (PB), and San Marcial 14 Oct (banded HW). North of expected was a Crissal Thrasher at Eldorado near Santa Fe 28 Sep (DF). Out of range was a probable Sprague's Pipit in grasses at Bluewater L. 4 Sep (DC). A Phainopepla strayed e. to B.L.N.W.R. 10 Sep (GW). Late (or overwintering?) was an Olive Warbler in the Animas Mts. 4 Nov (AC, NMC). The wood-warbler migration, while not spectacular, was nevertheless entertaining and included Tennessees at Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, 28 Sep (WW) and R.S. 4 Sep (SW), N. Parulas in the R.G.V. at Isleta L. 21 Nov (DE), Bosque N.W.R. 13 Nov (JO, DE), and E.B.L. Dam 26 Nov (JEP), Chestnut-sideds at Moriarty 6 Sep (DE, BN) and Berrenda Cr., *Sierra*, 23 Sep (CR), Magnolia at Albuquerque 3 Oct (CR, BN, DE), and Black-throated Blues at Albuquerque 3 Oct (CR, BN, DE), Sumner L. 5 and 16 Oct (WW, DE, BN), and N.R.T. 16 Oct (JEP, ph. JO). Black-throated Green Warblers were unusually prevalent, with one to two at N.R.T. 18 Sep–9 Oct (JEP, JO, MS, JZ), singles at Milnesand 6 Sep (JO) and Jal 23 Oct (ph. JO), and at least two at R.S. 24 Oct (v.t. JO). Noteworthy were Hermit Warblers in the Pinos Altos Mts. 27 Aug (MS, JZ) and 16–18 Sep (LM) and the Peloncillo Mts. 27 Aug (MS, JZ). Among the rarer Eastern strays were a **Blackburnian Warbler** at Boone's Draw 18 Sep (JEP, JO), **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Glenwood 1 Sep (B. & D. McKnight), **Pine Warbler** at N.R.T. 9 Oct (JEP, JO), and **Kentucky Warbler** at Boone's Draw 4 Sep (JO), plus single Palms at L.V.N.W.R. 17 Oct (B&DF), N.R.T. 5 Oct (WW), and Sunland Park 9 Oct (JNP) and a Hooded at San Marcial 8 Sep (banded HW). New Mexico's first confirmed **Swainson's Warbler,** discovered at Socorro in late July, remained through 14 Aug (v.o.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

North was a Summer Tanager at Clayton L. 26 Sep (JO). Cassin's Sparrows took advantage of the lush conditions in the sw., with 30 in the s. Animas Valley (including breeding activity) 6 Aug (AC, NMC), 34 in the Animas and Playas Valleys 27 Aug (AC, NMC), and 10 singing near the Big Hatchet Mts. 31 Aug (SOW). A partial survey of Botteri's Sparrow habitat in the middle Animas Valley found territories occupied by singing birds, plus one juv., 1–2 Sep (SOW). Clay-colored Sparrows w. of usual were one near Riverside 12 Nov (RS) and seven at Berrenda Cr. 23 Sep (CR). Taking advantage of abundant grasses, large numbers of Brewer's, Vespers, and other sparrows plus Lark Buntings inundated the state, particularly in the sw. Early were single Field Sparrows at Carlsbad 1 Oct (SW) and N.R.T. 9 Oct (JEP). A gray Fox Sparrow at Pilar 21 Oct (RW) was the only report. White-throated Sparrows had a banner season, especially in the middle and lower R.G.V., but the only Golden-crowned was at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel*, 20 Oct (WW). Along with three resident Yellow-eyed Juncoes in the Animas Mts. 4 Nov were both *dorsalis* and *caniceps* Gray-headed Juncoes (AC, NMC). Pyrrhuloxias n. of known breeding areas included one to two at N.R.T. (JO), Boone's Draw (JO), B.L.N.W.R. (GW), Bottomless L. (GE), Albuquerque (DE), and E.B.L. (NP). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at R.S. 3 Oct (ph. JO). A possible **Yellow Grosbeak,** described as an ad. male, was reported at Bosque N.W.R. 4 Oct (R. Rowland) but available details were sketchy and the bird was not relocated. Scarce in the lower R.G.V., three Painted Buntings were at La Mesa 21 Aug (MS, JZ); on the se. plains were four at Milnesand 6 Sep plus two at Caprock and one at Maljamar 21 Aug (JO). Three **Rusty Blackbirds** were at Bosque N.W.R. 21 Nov (AC, NMC, ph. JO). Also rare in New Mexico, a male **Purple Finch** was at Conchas L. 31 Oct (ph. JO), but undetailed was another at Clayton 5 Nov (WC, *fide* LF). Responding to an overabundance of sunflowers, Lesser Goldfinches were notably numerous, including 225 at Zuni 21 Aug (JT), and showed evidence of late nesting at

Zuni 16 Aug (DC) and Animas Valley 6 Aug (AC, NMC); late were two at Fruitland 20 Nov (TR), one at Zuni 6 Nov (DC), and 20 near Redrock 27 Nov (CR). Earliest Am. Goldfinches were two at Berrenda Cr. 23 Sep (CR) and five at Conchas L. 25 Sep (JO).The only(!) Evening Grosbeaks reported were 19 at Santa Fe 16 Oct (NP).

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Fall 1999 produced yet another in a developing trend of mild autumns, characterized by above average temperatures and dominated by warm, rainy anticyclones. These conditions caused a protracted freeze-up, with minimum mid-season snow accumulations, tardy fresh-water icing, and a slow out-migration for waterbirds. First significant snows were 10 to 20 days late nearly statewide and a systematic low-pressure storm season tracked traditionally across the North Pacific/North Gulf Coast from October onward. Few storms originated north of the central Bering Sea, which directed what to some seemed interminable northerly flows across the north and west half of the Region. Southeast was simply inundated with rain, even more than the norm, which certainly discouraged much field checking. As in several of the past years, early-season mild weather between storms created another window for an early whole-scale passerine exodus. Noteworthy songbird concentrations were totally unreported and again late dates were few.

As in the past few years, the most exciting fall reports came from Bering Sea sites, mainly the Pribilofs and St. Lawrence I., where Lehman and Co. set up shop at Gambell from late August into early October. He was nicely rewarded for his efforts and produced plenty of new information on later-season bird movements for that northerly outpost. With the end of Attu trips in sight, fall coverage at places like St. Paul, Gambell, and Nome could take up the void nicely. MacIntosh's 10-day pelagic voyage at the Continental Shelf off Kodiak I. in late August produced a nice seabird summary from the warm-water peak, data we rarely receive in these days of concentrated passerine research.

Abbreviations: ABO *(Alaska Bird Observatory);* North Gulf *(North Gulf of Alaska);* SE *(Southeast Alaska);* SC *(Southcoastal Alaska);* SW *(Southwest Alaska);* UCI *(Upper Cook Inlet);* Y-K Delta *(Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas).*

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Three adult Arctic Loons near Nome Aug 18–19 (†WINGS) were unusual onshore, while only one was noted at Gambell 22 Sep (PEL). Two adult Common Loons with a dependent young on Salmon L., Prince of Wales I., 13 Aug confirmed local nesting near the s. end of the species' known Alaska breeding limits. One of the Region's higher single counts was 26 Yellow-billed Loons moving past Gambell's point 28 Sep (PEL). A Pied-billed Grebe showed at Haines 3 Oct (AD), the only report of this rare annual fall visitant. Casual in the n. Bering Sea, two Red-necked Grebes appeared at Gambell, where there are few records, an imm. 22 Sep and an extremely late adult 1–3 Oct (†PEL); with the late freeze-up, above-average numbers lingered well into October in UCI around Anchorage (m.ob.). W. Grebes entered the Region on time in s. SE with a 11 Nov peak of 155 at Ketchikan sites (SCH, AP). Shipboard surveys in August around an active trawler over the Shelf, some 60 nmi se. of Kodiak, produced cautious counts of 30 Laysan, 500 Black-footed, and single imm. Short-tailed Albatross 30 Aug (RAM). Other notable pelagics in the area were four+ Pink-footed Shearwaters 22–26 Aug and at least one Flesh-footed Shearwater 22–23 Aug (RAM)—although probably annual, both species remain unsubstantiated by specimen or photograph for Alaska. This year's significant inshore Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were reported from the Ketchikan Narrows where they are casual in the fall storm season. Small groups were scattered in the area between 3 Oct–5 Nov, with an amazing peak of 120 present 26 Oct (SCH, AP). Two on Mother Goose L., Alaska Pen., 6 Sep were even more surprising and apparently not storm-related (CA, MM, LM, LS). St. Paul I. observers chased a nervous heron around that island's road system 1–2 Aug that they identified as a **Gray Heron.** They were unable to get decent views of the standing bird and no photographs were obtained. Although this widespread Palearctic species does not breed close to the Region or at northerly latitudes, it is known to wander after breeding season like our Great Blue Heron.

Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to expand in SE, punctuated by higher counts and more juveniles noted on the s. Mainland Naha R. system and an offshore peak of 52 on Prince of Wales I. 25 Nov (AP). Fall season rarely presents many noteworthy waterfowl rarities and this year's mild and tardy season produced essentially none. Prominent finds focused solely on *Aythya* ducks, especially Ring-necks which may be expanding in SE. Near-record local counts were 10+ at Ketchikan's Ward L. 4 Nov (SCH, AP), 20 at Sitka's famous Swan L. through Nov (MLW, MET), and 15 on a Mainland L. near Wrangell 29 Nov (SCH). The Anchorage area's staging peak was latish and totaled only 73 on military base lakes 18 Oct (DFD). Two drake Tufted Ducks wandered e. to Kodiak, where nearly annual, 22 Sep and 26 Oct+ (RAM). Ospreys were near record late in UCI, where an active Anchorage nest had both young and adults present to 23 Sep+ (DFD); two adults on s. SE's Naha R. lingered in an area where they probably bred (AP).

COOTS THROUGH ALCIDS

Rather customary Am. Coot numbers appeared at usual points of fall occurrences, mainly SE, three at Sitka 15 Oct (MLW, MET) being earliest and a group of four in Juneau 20 Oct (RJG) being the peak. Palearctic shorebirds were nicely represented in the Bering Sea, with ten Asian forms highlighting the St. Paul I. and Gambell reports. Significant shorebirds were four Mongolian Plovers at Gambell, getting late 23 Aug–6 Sep (WINGS); juv. Com. Ringed Plovers, casual in fall, at Gambell 20 and 25 Aug (ph. †WINGS); a lingering ad. Com. Greenshank, also casual in fall, at St. Paul I. 6–21 Aug (DWS, ST.PAUL, †WINGS); a fresh juv. Spotted Redshank at St. Paul and somewhat early 23–30 Aug (ST.PAUL, ph. KB); only one Wood Sandpiper to St. Paul 23 Aug (ST.PAUL); two–three Gray-tailed Tattlers 12–14 Aug at St. Paul and four 6–14 Sep n. to Gambell (WINGS); and rare-in-fall Temminck's and Long-toed Stints from Gambell 28 Aug (†PEL) and 21 Aug (†WINGS, ph. TL), respectively. Another Long-toed was photographed at Adak 22 Aug (PB), one of few cen. Aleutian reports. Kodiak's third Ruff was flushed off sedge flats 5 Sep (RAM), the Season's easternmost. Wandering Alaska breeding shorebirds included two extralimital and rare-in-fall Gr. Yellowlegs at the Nome R. mouth 26 Aug (†WINGS), two to three Bering Sea Lesser Yellowlegs at St. Paul I. 15–30 Aug (ST.PAUL), and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, also rare at St. Paul 28 Aug (ST.PAUL). The season's peak passage Stilt Sandpiper count reached a probably normal seven at Juneau 20–21 Aug (RJG). Most impressive Region-wide and late for the Bering Strait were incredible Red Phalarope concentrations off the point at Gambell throughout Sep, with Lehman's peak estimate an unprecedented *25,000* on 30 Sep. These data provide at least anecdotal evidence that the w. side of St. Lawrence I. provides key staging habitats, at least during harsh weather from the northeast.

This year's obligatory South Polar Skua report came from n. of Adak Strait 29 Aug (KDB+), the only report and an addition to the few Aleutian records—most skua reports come from shelf-edge waters in the North Gulf. Although no Franklin's Gulls appeared, other fall larids made fine showings in SE. At least four **Heermann's Gulls,** all juvs., showed in the Ketchikan area 9–28 Aug (ph. SCH), the site of most Alaska records. Sitka birders reported without details another two juvs. along the coast road 22–31 Aug (MLW, MET), at least a second local record. A fresh juv. *brachyrhynchus* Mew Gull was at Gambell 21 Aug (ph. †WINGS); this Nearctic race remains casual on St. Lawrence I. even though small numbers forage along the Bering Sea shoreline s. of Kotzebue. Average Ring-billed Gull counts were submitted from SE, with a peak of 17 from the Ketchikan environs 19 Aug (SCH). An ad. was at Haines 6 Aug (AD), the season's northernmost, while an ad. in Ketchikan lingered very late to 11 Nov (SCH). California Gulls saturated their regular fall habitats in s. SE, again focused in the Ketchikan area, where daily maxima reached a new state record *2,500+* 28 Aug (SCH), with another local high 350 from the mainland's Cleveland Pen. 30 Sep (SCH). Thirty-five were the estimated peak from the Juneau area 3 Aug–29 Sep (RJG). The Haines area attracted the northernmost report, where observers reported at least five from 9 Sep–13 Oct (AD, SCH). Heinl noted that California Gulls lingered later than usual; three were present into December. Gambell observers reported good daily counts of *vegae* Herring Gulls (up to 35/day) 20 Aug–3 Oct, with a remarkable peak of *60* on 3 Sep (TL, PEL). These tallies are likely St. Lawrence I.'s highest ever and hint at the numbers of this Siberian form that probably wander into the Bering Sea each fall. The annual Nome area Slaty-backed Gull inventory totaled only 12 individuals 18–19 Aug (WINGS). Few were mentioned elsewhere. Heinl described a clean Western Gull from the Ketchikan waterfront 24 Oct–11 Nov (†SCH), where pure and hybrid individuals are found annually, mostly in mid-fall.

At least 10 Caspian Terns in Juneau estuaries 3–10 Aug (RJG) represented one of few fall groups away from Prince William Sound colonies. Two Arctic Terns off Gambell 13 Sep (PEL) were well beyond average Bering Sea departures and probably record late for St. Lawrence I. Rare in the n. half of the Bering Sea and for St. Lawrence I. were single Kittlitz's Murrelets at Gambell 3 and 14 Sep (PEL). A Rhinoceros Auklet reached n. into the Bering Sea, described from St. Paul 5 Aug (*fide* SDS), a second local record. Most unusual and extralimital alcid reports focus on fall wanderers into the Bering Sea.

COLUMBIDS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

Mourning Doves made a classic autumn showing scattered across SE, with singles from Ketchikan 17 and 24 Sep (SCH), Sitka 5 Oct (MAW, MET), and offshore to Prince of Wales I. (late) 5 Nov (MAW), and at least two north to the Haines area 15–18 Sep (AD). After extensive review, excellent photos provided confirmation of an ad. **Oriental Cuckoo** at Gambell 23 Aug (†WINGS, ph. TL, ph. PEL). Based on undertail coloration, ventral barring, and underwing pattern, most reviewers agreed this individual was a classic Oriental, the Region's first in fall since the original July St. Lawrence I. specimens from earlier in the 20th Century. After years of relative population lows and essentially no irruptions, N. Hawk Owls were on the move to their peripheries. Individuals were reported from several sites outside the breeding range, highlighted by singles at Haines 15 Oct (SCH) and Ketchikan (found dead) 18 Nov (*fide* SCH), a local first; at least four per day were around Mother Goose L. all season (DR, SS, BB, CA). The Ketchikan report represents one of few offshore SE records, where most have been on or adjacent to the Mainland. N. Pygmy-Owl accounts were slightly short of average, highlighted by three+ around Haines 3 Aug–15 Oct (AD, SCH) and a single offshore on Admiralty I. in cen. SE 1 Sep (SCH). Perhaps encouraged by a protracted freeze-up, late Short-eared Owls included singles at the university ag. fields in Fairbanks *7–10 Nov* (*fide* ABO) and another barely ahead of early snows at Gambell 1 Oct (PEL). Following a pattern of recent years, three+ Boreal Owls were noted around Juneau 2–7 Nov (PS, RA, RJG). This interior form has historically been considered casual, mainly in winter in SE. After again being found at recently discovered breeding sites inland from Haines, at least *15* Com. Nighthawks were reported from two sites in the Salmon R. valley 9 Aug–2 Sep (AD). After a long hiatus of fall reports, a **Fork-tailed Swift** was documented from St. Paul I. somewhat early 25–30 Aug (ST.PAUL, v.t. SDS), a third Pribilof record. Completely at odds with the rest of the species' fall phenology, Rufous Hummingbirds again appeared in *October* at Kodiak, where they do not breed, with one documented around Kodiak City 17–29 Oct (ph. MR, *fide* RAM). MacIntosh feels that essentially all fall hummers at Kodiak are migrant Rufous that "become trapped" on the island, reluctant to leave the town's flowers and lingering late. There are few other Oct records and most depart *en masse* by early Sep. Rare in SE and a local first was a male Black-backed Woodpecker at Revillagigedo I. east of Ketchikan 14 Sep (TG).

Flycatcher reports were light, with a single E. Kingbird described from Haines 24

Sep (AD) the only significant find; after a flurry of near-annual occurrences in the late 1970s–1980s, autumn season reports dropped off significantly since the early 1990s. Local observers nicely described a **Brown Shrike** from Sitka 26–29 Nov (†MLW, MET), the latest of the Region's three fall records and the first in SE. A wandering N. Shrike reached Gambell 27 Sep (†PEL), probably a St. Lawrence I. first. None were otherwise reported peripherally. Casual in fall, especially away from SE Mainland river corridors, was an imm. Red-eyed Vireo near Juneau 29 Aug (RJG). Lehman's description of a male Horned Lark 4–10 Sep at Gambell seemed to represent e. Palearctic *flava*. Subspecies determination of Bering Sea larks is always problematic since both n. Alaska *arcticola* and NE Asian *flava* have been collected, especially at St. Lawrence I. This fall produced another round of late departing Violet-green Swallows. A family group of four was tardy at Ketchikan 25 Aug and another two remained nearby to the 28th (SCH), latest for s. SE by a week. Begging young were still at an Anchorage area nest 18 Aug (TT), UCI's third such August record. Notable offshore in the Bering Sea was a single Bank Swallow at St. Paul I. 15–16 Aug (WINGS). Nearly 30 years to the day after St. Lawrence I.'s first record, another Red-breasted Nuthatch found the Gambell middens 23 Sep (†PEL). Although casual in the Bering Sea, there are growing numbers of fall records for the offshore islands, likely related to successful breeding-cycle dispersals. A bright-plumaged, skittish *Phylloscopus* at the Gambell middens turned out to be North America's first **Yellow-browed Warbler** 23–24 Sep (ph. †PEL). Long considered a strong candidate for the Alaska list, this long-distance migrant breeds in the Siberian taiga as close to the Bering Sea as the lower Kolyma and the Amur R. deltas. Rare in Japan, the NE Asia subspecies migrates mostly inside the Sea of Japan coast and along the mainland shores to SE Asia and e. India. Arctic Warblers cleared out early, with the latest at Gambell 14 Sep (PEL). One was netted and documented in e. *Anchorage* 23 Aug (ph. BS, *fide* RLS). Although this Palearctic form nests within 150 km of Anchorage there is only one previous UCI record, a June spring overshoot.

MIMIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Showing a propensity to wander nw. in fall, another handsome **Gray Catbird** spent 13 Oct in an Anchorage yard, the Region's third and second fall record (DFD, LJO, DWS, †RLS, †TT et al.). Anchorage's apparent resident N. Mockingbird reappeared downtown in Aug and remained in its favored patch of berry bushes through the period (DWS, m.ob.); it has been present since Aug 1998. Fitting nicely in the species' pattern of almost exclusively October records, another **Siberian Accentor** reached Gambell's middens 2 Oct (†PEL). Getting late after a weak passage at St. Lawrence I., a Red-throated Pipit was still at Gambell 27 Sep (PEL). Warbler highlights focused on late migrants and a few Bering Sea waifs, including single Orange-crowned and Yellow Warblers at Gambell 20 Aug (WINGS, ph. TL) and 13 Sep (ph. †PEL), respectively, where both are accidental in fall. Seven Wilson's Warblers flocked to St.

This Orange-crowned Warbler was an accidental stray at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, 20 Aug 1999. Photograph/Tony Leukering

Paul I. 29–31 Aug (ST.PAUL), an exceptional Bering Sea tally. Late warbler highlights included Orange-crowneds at Anchorage 31 Oct (TT) and Juneau 13 Nov (GVV, PS), a Townsend's at Juneau 12 Nov (GVV), and two Wilson's around Anchorage 30 Oct (TT) and another near Juneau 21 Nov (MWS). A recently frozen **Ovenbird** was found in a Fairbanks yard 19 Oct (*fide* ND, *DDG), Alaska's second specimen, second fall record, and third interior report.

Casual for *St. Lawrence I.* were an Am. Tree Sparrow 21–22 Sep and two juv. Chipping Sparrows 19–21 and 29 Sep (†PEL), all at Gambell. Another two Chipping Sparrows were Ketchikan's first ever from a local feeder 24 Oct (JFK)—this SE mainland nester is surprisingly rare offhsore. Sitka birders described what appeared to be an imm. **Lark Sparrow** near town 15 Aug (†MLW, MET, JA). Alaska's only other record was an adult along the AK Highway near the Canada border in June. St. Lawrence I.'s apparent first *zaboria* Fox Sparrow showed up at Gambell 16 Sep (ph. †PEL)—all previous ones described/collected from St. Lawrence I. have been browner coastal forms. Another imm. **Swamp Sparrow,** the eighth local and Region's 11th, appeared at a Ketchikan feeder 31 Oct (†SCH, PH). Below normal in fall was only one Harris's Sparrow, at Juneau 21–23 Nov+ (MJ, DWS) and single White-throateds from Ketchikan 31 Oct (SCH, PH), Juneau 7 Nov (PS), and w. to Seward the same day (RLS, NS, TT). Lehman's fall Asian component at Gambell included a fresh **Little Bunting** 24 Sep (†PEL), Alaska's fourth and St. Lawrence Island's second, all from fall. Aside from a few local small groups, both crossbill species were barely reported. Pine Siskins exploded n. into the interior's Tanana Valley, highlighted by 100s in the Fairbanks area into late Aug. Essentially all departed by early Oct (ABO, ND). As part of this post-season pulse, four each made it to St. Paul I. 29 Aug (ST.PAUL), where casual, and Gambell 24 Aug–18 Sep (WINGS, †PEL, ph. TL), where there was one previous record.

Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (v.t.) referenced are on file at UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM. C. Adler, J. Ainsworth, J. B. Allen, C. Anderson, R. Armstrong, P. Bartley, K. D. Bell, B. Blush, M. Brown, K. Burton, D. F. Delap, A. DeMartini, N. DeWitt, L. Edfelt, G. Etherington, B. P. Gibbons, D. D. Gibson, R. E. Gill, R. J. Gordon, T. Goucher, S. C. Heinl, P. Hunt, M. Jefferson, J. F. Koerner, P. E. Lehman, T. Leukering, R. A. MacIntosh, M. Margulies, B. J. McCaffery, C. McIntyre, L. McKinnon, B. Myers, L. J. Oakley, P. P. Perry, A. Piston, M. Resoff, B. Rowe, D. Russell, L. Sanborn, S. Savage, T. Schantz, L. Scharf, R. L. Scher, M. W. Schwan, M. Schwitters, N. Senner, S. E. Senner, B. Seppi, W. Shuster, D. W. Sonneborn, ***ST. PAUL*** (St. Paul Tours: K. Burton, M. Greenfelder, L. Ness, S. Toussaint, S. D. Smith), S. Springer, D. Stokes, P. Suchanek, M. E. Tedin, K. Titus, G. Van Vliet, M. Walsh, M. L. Ward, S. Wellborn, J. Williams, ***WINGS*** (P. E. Lehman, T. Leukering), M. A. Wood, S. Zimmerman.

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

british columbia–yukon

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A brilliant warm summer finally began the first week of August and lasted through the Equinox into the third week of October. A brief spell of cooler, showery weather the first week of September kept migrants low and easy to spot. But boy did the weather change drastically as a high-speed flow off the Pacific cranked up. The coast was constantly wet and windy through the last five weeks of the period, while the interior was occasionally so. Late-autumn temperatures remained consistent, such that a cool end of October became a mild end of November. The exception was the Yukon and far northern British Columbia, which tasted real winter during late November.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Southern Yukon enjoyed a record showing of Yellow-billed Loons, with a juv. at Schwatka L. 3 Oct (JJ, ARo), one at Nisutlin Bay 6 Oct (CE), a long-staying bird at L. Laberge 9 Oct–20 Nov (JJ, ARo, CE, PS, HG), and one at Tagish Narrows 23–24 Nov (BD, CE). In B.C., one was off the Englishman R. Estuary in Parksville 17 Oct (*fide* Nanaimo RBA). A well-documented Western Grebe at L. Laberge 30 Oct provided Yukon's first record of an *Aechmophorus* to exclude Clark's Grebe (CE, PS). Another Western Grebe reportedly spent the summer and fall on Simpson L., se. Yukon, departing at freeze-up 21 Nov (UR).

Two Pink-footed Shearwaters, rare in Juan de Fuca Strait, were off Victoria 23 Sep (GR, RT, DEA, PL, GD). At least one Am. White Pelican wandered the Strait of Georgia during the period, with reports coming from the Roberts Bank Jetty Jun–12 Sep (m.ob.), Iona I. 13 Sep (BSc), and Campbell R. 16 Sep (CCr). Brown Pelicans put in their usual fall appearance along the sw. coast of B.C., peaking at 100+ birds s. of Pachena Bay 16 Aug (TE). A Double-crested Cormorant at Eaglet L. 29 Aug (CA) provided the only cen. interior record this year. Cattle Egrets appeared in slightly larger numbers than normal, with individuals reported from Alberni Valley 20 Oct–28 Nov (*fide* SM), Chilliwack 26 Oct–2 Nov (JO et al.), and Kamloops 16–19 Nov (v.o.). At least two were in the Duncan area Oct/Nov (DM et al.) and four were at Westham I. 27–29 Nov (J. Ireland, m.ob.). Rare in B.C., a White-faced Ibis was at Courtenay 20 Sep (*fide* V. Hansen).

By far the year's most stunning rarity in the Yukon was an ad. **Bean Goose** discovered in Whitehorse 23–24 Oct and enjoyed by many during its brief stay (CE, PS, m.ob.). A lone goose, likely this individual, had been in the area for about a week prior to its identification. An ad. **Whooper Swan** at Mamit L. 7–14 Nov (WW, ARa, m.ob.) provided one of the few records for the Region. It closely associated with a Tundra Swan and two imm. that may have been hybrids. A female Tufted Duck was at Iona I. 24 Nov and a male was there 29 Nov (both RT). An impressive 350 Long-tailed Ducks at L. Laberge 16 Oct (CE, PS) established a record-high fall count for s. Yukon. Rare migrants in the Whitehorse area, 14 Ruddy Ducks were at the sewage lagoons 9 Sep (BD, HG).

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Hawkwatching at Rocky Pt. at the s. tip of Vancouver resulted in several noteworthy records, including White-tailed Kites 18 Aug (MP, DD, DJA, RS) and 14 Sep (DEA) and at least 25 Broad-winged Hawks through the season. A record-setting group of seven Broad-wingeds was there 7 Oct (DD et al.). An active Broad-winged nest near Chetwynd furnished one of the few breeding records for the Region. A scolding adult and a partly feathered chick were at the nest 3 Aug (MPh). The relatively recently discovered fall migration corridor along the spine of the Rockies was again investigated in 1999. From 6–9 Oct, 119 southbound Golden Eagles were tallied (SK, LL). A wind-blown White-tailed Ptarmigan sitting on the shore at Jackfish Bay, L. Laberge, during an extreme windstorm 1 Nov (CE) provided an unprecedented lowland record for the Whitehorse area. Sandhill Crane migration over upper Sheep Cr. in the Pelly Mts. was recorded 5–6 Sep, with a total of 1,100 (RE).

The Nisutlin Delta is s. Yukon's premier location for shorebird migration and during Aug/Sep an impressive 24 shorebird

species were recorded. Highlights included the Yukon's third record of Bar-tailed Godwit, an ad. male and female 14 Aug (CE, HG), record-high tallies of Stilt Sandpipers (50 juvs.) 14 Aug (CE, HG) and Western Sandpipers (65 juvs.) 4 Sep (CE), and the second s. Yukon Buff-breasted Sandpiper 4 Sep (CE). On 12 Sep, a careful search through 700 Pectoral Sandpipers turned up a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (CE, HG). A fallout of shorebirds at Masset 18–19 Aug produced several noteworthy sightings for the Queen Charlotte Is., including 22 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Solitary Sandpiper, and a Stilt Sandpiper (MHe, PH). On 3 Sep, a mixed flock of 75 golden-plovers at Sandspit contained 6 Pacifics and a record 69 Americans (MHe, PH). In B.C., reports of Hudsonian Godwits were more widespread, with individuals at Oyster Bay Shoreline Park 16–22 Aug (NM, AMo, m.ob.), Reifel I. 19 Aug (J. Nicholson), and Boundary Bay 23 Aug (RT). A Ruddy Turnstone at the s. end of Stump L. 21 Aug (RH, WW et al.) provided only the third record for the Kamloops area and the only interior B.C. report this year. Extremely rare in the interior, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at Tranquille 8 Sep (RR, CRi). "Stint Haven," a.k.a. Iona I., produced two tiny *Calidris* rarities this fall, a juv. Little Stint 5–8 Oct (RT, DJe, SO, m.ob.) and a juv. Red-necked Stint 28 Oct–17 Nov (RT, AMi, GT, m.ob.). A juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper frequented the n. shore of Boundary Bay and adjacent fields 9–17 Sep (RT, NH,

m.ob.). Another juv. was at Iona I. 6–9 Oct (RT, MM, MT, m.ob.). A juv. female Ruff was on the n. shore of Boundary Bay 11 Sep (RT).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A southbound light-morph Parasitic Jaeger 16 Sep was the first in fall for the Whitehorse area (JJ). A South Polar Skua, a rare visitor to inside waters, was in Juan de Fuca Strait s. of Victoria 27 Aug (BB). An adult Slaty-backed Gull in Whitehorse 1–3 Sep (CE, PS) provided the Yukon's second documented record of this species. Yukon's first documented **Ivory Gull,** a first-winter bird, was at Tagish Narrows 21 Nov (CE, PS, CLE, DE). Sadly, its health declined quickly: a rescue team 24 Nov found it had died during the previous night. The specimen was saved. As usual, there was a smattering of Sabine's Gulls reports from the interior of B.C., with single birds at Kamloops 7 Sep (v.o.), Williams L. 5–10 Sep (PR et al.), Nulki L. 15 Sep (LL, SK), and the w. end Stellako R. 13 Oct (JM). An ad. Caspian Tern at Nisutlin Delta 1 Aug provided the fifth Yukon record of the species (CE, PS et al.). Now of nearly annual occurrence on the s. coast, a Forster's Tern was at Clover Pt. 26 Aug (*fide* Victoria RBA). A Thick-billed Murre appeared at Alliford Bay 4 Nov (PH).

A vagrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo turned up at Duck L., Creston, 20 Oct (EM). Rather far n., a Barn Owl was in McBride late Nov (LT). An apparent brief mini-invasion of Great Gray Owls around Whitehorse included one at the Annie L. Road 30 Sep (RA), one at South M'Clintock, Marsh L., 3–5 Oct (DP, DS), and one in Whitehorse-Hillcrest 7 Oct (RI). Two Long-eared Owls roosting in a willow thicket at Giscome 22 Aug (JB, CA) provided only the fifth record for the Prince George area. A record-late Com. Nighthawk was over downtown Whitehorse 16 Sep (JJ). A spectacular migration of Rufous Hummingbirds was noted at Rocky Pt.; over 150 of these little mites were mist-netted late Jul to mid-Aug (DD et al.). A very cold Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Whitehorse 2 Nov smashed Yukon's previous late date by nearly two months (LK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS

An E. Phoebe, a rare species w. of the Rockies, was at Mackenzie 6 Aug (DB, DL). Ash-throated Flycatchers are rare but regular on the s. coast. However, their invasion into the lower mainland Aug/Sep was unprecedented. Two juvs. were at Burns Bog 16–17 Aug (MG), with one staying until late Aug (m.ob.), and lone juvs. were at Cheam L. Wetland 3 Sep (GG), Tsawwassen 28 Aug (CK), and Reifel I. 5–6 Sep (PC, CRu, JI, m.ob.). There was only one Tropical Kingbird report this fall, at Jordan R. 17 Oct (DJo, DM). A Blue Jay was at Ft. Nelson 18 Oct (MS), rather far n. for this time of year. Rare in the n. Rockies, a Clark's Nutcracker was on Morfee Mtn. near Mackenzie 20 Aug (VL, JL, DL). Fifty Purple Martins at Deer L., Burnaby 8–12 Sep (GC, RF) was perhaps the largest number ever recorded in the Lower Mainland. A Gray Catbird heard calling at Rocky Pt. 30 Sep (DD, RT, DEA) provided only the second record for Vancouver I. Individual Red-throated Pipits, rare transients in B.C., were in Central Saanich 23–24 Oct (KT, DEA, DJA, GD, RT) and Sandspit 31 Oct (PH).

Abundant aphids drew a small horde of warblers to a Whitehorse yard 28 Aug, with six Orange-crowneds, six Yellows, 20 Yellow-rumpeds, a Townsend's, eight Blackpolls, a N. Waterthrush, and 30 Wilson's (CE, PS). A late imm. Yellow Warbler was at Brunswick Pt. 29 Nov (RT, DJe, EJ). Noteworthy coastal reports of Am. Redstarts included an imm. banded at Rocky Pt. 5 Aug (ph. DD, DEA) and one at Burns Bog 1 Sep (RT). Black-and-white Warblers, rare w. of the Rockies, were at Kalimoir Park in the Okanagan 13 Oct (EF, LR) and at Sandspit 4 Nov (PH). A N. Waterthrush at Reifel I. 3 Oct (MHa) furnished the only coastal report this season. A Com. Yellowthroat in Whitehorse 1 Nov (JJ) provided a late Yukon record for this species. A record-late juv. Chipping Sparrow frequented a Whitehorse feeder 30 Sep–6 Oct (CE, PS). Clay-colored Sparrows almost never make it as far w. as Vancouver I., but an imm. was at Rocky Pt. 3–4 Sep (DEA, DJA). Virtually unheard of on the coast, a Com. Grackle put in a two-day appearance in Central Saanich 14–15 Nov (KT et al.). A Dickcissel, a species from e. of the Rockies, was at Rocky Pt. 9 Oct (DEA). An imm. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Ucluelet 23 Nov+ (BSl et al.) provided a rare coastal report of this species. During summer White-winged Crossbills responded to a heavy spruce cone crop with a major irruption, primarily in the interior B.C. Large flocks were reported widely well into Sep, with numbers gradually decreasing through the end of the period.

Observers (subregional editors in bold): Ron Adams, **David E. Allinson** (Victoria), Devon J. Anderson, **Cathy Antoniazzi** (Prince George), **Steve Baillie** (Nanaimo), Brent Beach, David Bostock, **Jack Bowling** (Prince George, weather summaries), Peter Candido, **Richard Cannings** (Okanagan), **Don Cecile** (Vernon), **Chris Charlesworth** (CCh; Kelowna), George Clulow, **Larry Cowan** (Vancouver), Casey Cramer (CCr), Gabriel David (GD), **Gary S. Davidson** (W. Kootenays), Dan Derbyshire, Boris Dobrowolsky, **Cameron Eckert** (Yukon), Cameron L. Eckert, Diana Eckert, Robb Ellwood, Terry Erskine, Randy Findlay, Elke Fischer, **Bryan Gates** (Victoria), Martin Gebauer, **Max Gotz** (Pemberton/Whistler), **Tony Greenfield** (Sunshine Coast), **Helmut Grünberg** (Yukon), **Peter Hamel** (Queen Charlotte Is.), **Vicki Hansen** (Campbell R.), Malcolm Hayes (MHa), Margo Hearne (MHe), Rick Howie, Neil Hughes, Robb Ingram, John Ireland, Jukka Jantunen, Dale Jensen (DJe), Evelyn Jensen, D. Johnson (DJo), **Sandra Kinsey** (Prince George), Caroline Knox, Lee Kubica, David Lambie, John Lambie, Vi Lambie, Laird Law, Paul Levesque, Derrick Marven, Jack McGhee, Nelson McInnis, Ed McMackin, **Sandy McRuer** (Alberni Valley), Mitch Meredith, Alan Milligan (AMi), Art Morgan (AMo), Stan Olson, Jason Osterhold, Doug Phillips, **Mark Phinney** (MPh; Peace R.), Michael Porter (MPo), Ulla Rembe, Clara Ritcey (CRi), Ralph Ritcey, Andy Raniseth (ARa), **Phil Ranson** (Cariboo), Lesley Robertson, Gail Roper, Amélie Rousseau (ARo), Christopher Rustay (CRu), Rick Schortinghuis, Brian Scott (BSc), **Michael G. Shepard** (S. Vancouver I.), Pam Sinclair, Brian Slater (BSl), Dale Stokes, Keith Taylor, Glen Thomson, Mike Toochin, **Rick Toochin** (Vancouver), Linda Trask, **Hank van-der Pol** (Victoria), Wayne Weber.

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Following an unpleasantly damp summer, fall was somewhat drier until mid-October. August rainfalls averaged above normal, mostly due to thunderstorm activity, so some areas were quite wet while others were rather dry. September, however, was exceedingly dry and October was drier than average. November saw a return to *La Niña* conditions with exceptionally heavy rainfall on the westside but dry to average conditions on the eastside. Temperatures were generally unremarkable until November, which was moderately warmer than normal throughout.

It was another spectacular fall for rarities, with 26 reports of birds warranting boldface. The most remarkable were the Region's first **Eurasian Kestrel** and Washington's first *and* Oregon's second **Wedge-tailed Shearwater.** Beyond mega-rarities, there were relatively few trends. Few eastside birds wandered west and *vice versa.* Migrants did not arrive early nor did they depart late. However, some changes were evident, most of them good. Common Murres, Sooty Shearwaters, and N. Fulmar, three seabirds relatively scarce over the last decade, seemed to rebound in 1999. Laysan Albatrosses continue to increase. The spate of vagrants from Beringia continued with a smattering of Horned Puffins in Oregon. Brown Pelicans arrived in large numbers again showing that their growing summer/fall numbers are not just a warm-water phenomenon. Among landbirds, Western Scrub-Jays continued to expand and reports of Clay-colored Sparrows continue to rise. Finally, Com. Redpolls invaded in the last weeks of November.

Abbreviations: eastside *(east of the Cascade crest);* F.R.R. *(Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane Co., OR);* M.N.W.R. *(Malheur N.W.R., Harney Co., OR);* N.S.C.B. *(N. Spit Coos Bay, Coos Co., OR);* O.S. *(Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor Co., WA);* P.N.P. *(Pt. No Pt., Kitsap Co., WA);* W.W.R.D. *(Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla Co., WA);* westside *(west of the Cascade crest);* Y.R.D. *(Yakima R. delta, Benton Co., WA).*

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated Loons, rare on the eastside away from the Columbia R., were at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes,* 3 Oct (PS) and Upper Klamath L., *Klamath,* 11 Nov (KS). Regular seawatching at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln,* OR, revealed high counts of 2,000 Red-throated Loons 17 Nov and 15,000 Pacifics 29 Oct (PP). Twelve Clark's Grebes on the westside, including four at Gold Beach, *Curry,* 25 Oct (DM), were well above average. Only two were in Washington, at Oak Harbor, *Island,* 31 Oct (SDs, RS) and P.N.P. 7 Nov (GR). Black-footed Albatross counts on 16 pelagic trips averaged 100 per trip, roughly normal (TRW, GG, MH). A fall record high 16 Laysan Albatross was reported. One was 65 mi w. of Sand L., OR, 19 Sep (GG, MH), the remainder off Westport, WA, with a total of nine 9–10 Oct (TRW). N. Fulmar numbers were large, averaging >1,000 per trip, with counts peaking in late August to mid-September: 1,103 off Depoe Bay, OR, 21 Aug (GG, MH) and 8295 off Westport 12 Sep (TRW). A N. Fulmar off Keystone 31 Oct was *Island*'s first (SM, GT). The identity of a **dark *Pterodroma*** 65 mi w. of Clatsop Beach, OR, 19 Sep (+JG, OS) is under review. Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were low to normal, averaging ±100 per trip. Eleven Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported, all off Washington, a better showing than the last two falls (TRW). Buller's Shearwaters averaged merely 30 per trip, with a peak of 113, the lowest fall numbers since 1994 (GG, MH, TRW). Sooty Shearwater counts were higher than most years this decade, averaging 2,000 per trip off Washington and peaking at 9,930 offshore 21 Aug (TRW). Counts from shore were high again, with 20,000 at Tokeland, *Pacific,* 1 Aug and at O.S. 5 Aug (SM, TA). Sooty and Short-tailed Shearwaters are rare from Port Angeles, *Clallam,* west. This fall, there was a Sooty off Keystone 31 Oct (SM, GT) and unidentified dark shearwaters at P.N.P. 26 Oct (VN) and off Keystone 31 Oct (SM, GT). Single **Manx/Black-vented Shearwaters** were at O.S. 1 Aug (SM) and Boiler Bay 9 Nov (+PP); given the recent spate of Manx records and the cool ocean temperatures this year, these birds were probably Manx. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were present in good numbers offshore, averaging 165 per trip off Westport (TRW).

Am. White Pelicans continue to be unusually numerous on the westside, with one at Edmonds, *Snohomish,* 23 Oct (DD), two at Blaine, *Whatcom,* throughout the period (SM, DD), one at F.R.R. 26 Oct–30 Nov (A. Prigge), and one at Sauvie I. Aug–Sep (D. Robberson). Despite cooler ocean temperatures, large numbers of Brown Pelicans appeared and stayed late, with a maximum of 1,150 at Westport 22 Aug (SM, JF, SP) and 200 still there 4 Nov (GR). Few wandered into Puget Sound,

SA Prior to 1998 there were only two accepted ABA records of **Wedge-tailed Shearwater,** both from California. Thus, discovery of a dead one near Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln,* 26 Mar 1999 was a complete surprise (D. A. Leal, *Oregon Birds* 25:96). The record was not unique for long, however, as another dark-morph bird was found dead this fall near Ocean City, *Grays Harbor,* 10 Sep (C. Wood, T. Haas, Univ. Washington Burke Museum 63735) and a live dark bird was ±30 mi w. of Newport, Lincoln, OR, 2 Oct (+MH). At least two others have been reported from California in the past two years (*N. Am. Birds* 53:99, D. L. Shearwater). Do recent records reflect a real change in status, a temporary blip, or better observer awareness?

with singles at P.N.P. 23–26 Sep and 22–24 Nov (VN). Twenty Cattle Egrets were on the westside, better than average, with a maximum of ten at Gold Beach 18 Oct (DM), but only one in Washington, near Edison, *Skagit*, 11–14 Nov (TA). A Green Heron, rare in e. WA, was at Bateman I., *Benton*, WA, 30 Sep–5 Oct (NL, BL). Twenty White-faced Ibis in *Crook*, 15 Aug, were n. of that species range in se. Oregon (PS).

Migrant Trumpeter Swans were at McNary Dam, *Umatilla*, 13 Nov (CC,JS) and Columbia N.W.R., *Grant*, WA, 20 Nov (RH); this species is rare on the eastside away from small introduced populations. A Snow Goose on Fir I., *Skagit*, 30 Aug, was six weeks early and may have been summering locally (SM, DD, JS). A Ross's Goose remained at Bandon, *Coos*, through Sep (DL, KC), one was at Sauvie I. 23 Oct and 18 Nov (RK, BS), and one was at Post Office L., *Clark*, 27 Nov (SM); previously casual, they are now rare-but-regular in Washington and w. Oregon. A Brant, rare away from saltwater, was at Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, 26–27 Oct (TSu, E. Anderson). A count of 22 Eur. Wigeon at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam*, 31 Oct was exceptional for fall; counts of this magnitude are regular Dec–Mar (SM, GT). A **King Eider** at Seal Rock S.P., *Lincoln*, 9–25 Oct (L. Osis, m.ob.) was about the 12th for Oregon and the Region's earliest by two weeks.

FALCONIFORMES THROUGH PHALAROPES

An Osprey at Woodland, *Cowlitz*, 27 Nov was six weeks late for Washington (SM). Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase, mainly in w. OR; however, one at Bonney Butte Hawkwatch on Mt. Hood, in late Sep was unexpected (NP) and singles at Tumalo Res., *Deschutes*, 6 Sep and M.N.W.R. 10 Sep were in e. OR where rare (S. Kornfeld, MD). Another was in Washington, where not annual, at Steigerwald L., *Clark*, 4 Sep (+WC). HawkWatch International's counts are establishing Broad-winged Hawks as regular fall migrants along the Cascades. This season's reports included an amazing kettle of 60+ over Bonney Butte 29 Sep—more than the sum total of previous Regional records (D. Baccus, CH). Five others were there late Sep to mid-Oct, one was near Madras, *Jefferson*, 17 Aug (CH, DI, NP), and another was farther e. in Spokane 18 Sep (+JA, D. Mann). A Swainson's Hawk, casual on the westside, was at Edmonds 22 Aug (DD).

A Gyrfalcon at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 19 Sep was a month early (RG). More typical sightings included an ad. near Edison, *Skagit*, 7 Nov+ (SM,DD,ED), an imm. near Edison 31 Oct+ (ED), one near Davenport, *Lincoln*, WA, 18 Nov (JA), an imm. near Sequim, *Clallam*, 19–20 Nov (SDs), and an imm. near Banks, *Washington*, in late Nov (JG). Two Sage Grouse at FEALE 6 Nov, were in *Benton*, WA, where considered extirpated (NL, BL). A count of 750 California Quail at Burns, *Harney*, 27 Sep was impressive (PS).

Am. Golden-Plovers had an average fall, with a Regional tally of 63. Pacific Golden-Plovers, however, were unusually scarce with only ±30 reported. Single **Mountain Plovers** were near Flores L., *Curry*, 7 Nov (DL, KC) and Dunes Overlook, *Curry*, 16 Nov+ (DL,KC), Oregon's seventh and eighth records. Previous records were from the westside Dec–Mar. A **Eurasian Dotterel** at O.S. 20 Oct–5 Nov (+TA, ph., m. ob.) was the third for Washington and ninth for the contiguous United States, seven of which appeared 3–20 Sep. A Black-necked Stilt at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*, 27 Oct was the Region's latest ever (FM). Am. Avocets, rare on the westside, were at Tillamook, *Tillamook*, 30 Aug (W. Gross), Brownsville, *Linn*, 23 Sep (RG), Nehalem, *Tillamook*, 9–23 Oct (E. McVicker), O.S. 25 Oct (P. Hicks), Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington*, 16–25 Oct (PS), and Siletz Bay, *Lincoln*, OR, 23 Nov (PP). It was an average fall for Solitary Sandpipers, with 30 on the eastside and seven on the westside, but eight at Tucannon R. Fish Hatchery, *Columbia*, 11 Aug (MD, MLD) may be the largest concentration ever in Washington. A Whimbrel at Atkin's L., *Douglas*, Aug 29 was in e. Washington, where not annual (KK, PtS). Washington's 20th and 21st Hudsonian Godwits were at O.S. 27 Aug (GR) and Tokeland 26 Sep–10 Oct (+RSh). The Region averages ±2 Bar-tailed Godwits per fall. This year's included an ad. male at Tokeland 1–16 Aug (+SM, JF), an ad. female there 1 Aug–11 Sep (+SM, JF, GR), and an ad. at Bandon 11 Sep (DL, KC, PS). Marbled Godwits are rare away from the outer coast in Washington, so 22 at Dungeness Bay 9 Oct was noteworthy (B. Boekelheide). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Ridgefield N.W.R. 28 Nov was Washington's latest by two days (+M.&E. Palm); one at W.W.R.D. 26–29 Sep was only about the tenth for e. Washington (AS). Eight others were reported from the westside 8 Sep–17 Oct, an above-average number. Stilt Sandpipers had a below-average showing with only 11 on the eastside and ten on the westside. Buff-breasted

Representing only the third state record, this Eurasian Dotterel at Ocean Shores, Washington, 20 Oct–5 Nov 1999 (and photographed 22 Oct) also represented one of only ten records for North America away from Alaska, all on the West Coast from Washington south to northern Baja California. Photograph/Ruth Sullivan

SA The Region's first **Eurasian Kestrel** was at Bow, *Skagit*, 31 Oct–11 Nov (BA, ED, M. Muller). This modestly underweight imm., probably male, was banded 3 Nov and showed no signs of previous captivity (BA). Other North American records include ±8 from Alaska (*ABA Checklist* 1996), ±4 between New Jersey and Nova Scotia, one from Bermuda (D. Wingate), and one from Alkali L., British Columbia, 10 Dec 1946 (*Condor* 87:294).

Sandpipers at Necanicum R. mouth, *Clatsop*, 31 Aug–1 Sep (TT), New R., *Coos*, 8 Sep (DM), and O.S. 11 Sep (BW) provided an average fall. A Ruff at Y.R.D. 6–13 Sep was only the eighth from e. WA (BW). Others were at Yaquina Bay 29–30 Aug (KAl), Clatsop Beach, *Clatsop*, 2–3 Sep (B. O'Brien, TT), Siltcoos Creek, *Lane*, 2 Sep (S. Maulding, D. Petty), Bandon 13 Sep (T. Bray), N.S.C.B. 21 Sep (TR), O.S. 9 Sep (TA), and Oak Bay, *Jefferson*, WA, 2 Oct (D. Watkins); the Region averages ±three per fall. Counts of both pelagic phalaropes continued a decade-long low, with only 23 Reds and 133 Red-neckeds on 12 trips off Westport (TRW).

SKUAS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A South Polar Skua, rare from shore, was at Boiler Bay 30 Sep (PP); 33 from pelagic trips was an above-average fall total (GG, MH, TRW). Pomarine Jaegers are now almost annual in Puget Sound, where formerly considered casual. This fall's include one from Edmonds, three from P.N.P., and one off Cultus Bay, *Island* (DD, VN, SM). Offshore, counts were low, totaling only 64, lower than some one-day counts in previous years (GG, MH, TRW). Parasitic Jaegers at Wanapum Dam, *Kittitas*, 30 Aug (SP, JF) and Y.R.D. 30 Sep (NL, DR) were along the eastside portion of the Columbia R., where rare in fall. A Long-tailed Jaeger, rare from shore, was at Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, 19 Aug (JG, OS). A total of 85 were found offshore, below the long-term average, but above 1993–1998 numbers (GG, MH, TRW). The only Franklin's Gulls in the Puget Sound region were singles at P.N.P. 5 Sep and 23 Oct (VN) and two at Stanwood, *Snohomish*, 13 Aug (K. Kemper), representing the lowest total in decades and part of a distinct decline over the past 10 years. The only one in w. Oregon was at Boiler Bay 21 Aug (PP) and the only one in e. Washington was at the W.W.R.D. 1–6 Oct (MD, MLD). A Little Gull returned to Summer L., *Lake*, 18 Sep–Oct (CM, MM); it is casual on the eastside. Three per fall has been typical on the westside, but one at P.N.P. 20 Nov was the only report (PtS, RS). A count of 1,950 Thayer's Gulls at Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, 6 Nov is likely the largest total ever for the contiguous U.S. (SM, GR, RR). An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull** at Tacoma, *Pierce*, 7–28 Nov was Washington's fifth and more than a month earlier than most Pacific Northwest records (+M. Donahue). A W. Gull at Y.R.D. 14 Nov was on the eastside where rare-but-annual (NL, BL). Five Glaucous Gulls, all on the westside during Nov, provided the best fall showing since 1994. Sabine's Gulls averaged ±20 per pelagic trip, with a peak of only 85 off Oregon 19 Sep (JG, OS). An imm. Arctic Tern at Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson*, WA, 6–10 Nov was six weeks late and among the latest ever for the West Coast (ph. RR, SM, GR). Offshore, the season total of 151 was low, less than daily counts in good years. Forster's Terns were at Edmonds 1–6 Oct (DD) and P.N.P. 7-8 Oct (VN); they are now annual in Puget Sound, mostly Oct–Nov, considerably later than elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. One on the outer coast, where rare, was at Charleston, *Coos*, 29 Aug (AC). Common Murre numbers were high after their first successful breeding season in a decade, with tallies of 1,000+ off Boiler Bay 4 Aug (PP) and 2,397 off Westport 7 Aug (TRW) including a large percentage of juvs. Two **Long- billed Murrelets** at O.S. 6 Aug were the fourth for Washington and first for the outer coast (+BS, +TS). The early fall date falls within the pattern of North American records. Xantus's Murrelets were found for the fifth consecutive fall, with two *scrippsi* off Westport 14 Aug (BT). A few early Ancient Murrelets were scattered along the Oregon coast throughout Aug (PP, NW, TR); they usually arrive in mid-Sep. Cassin's Auklet numbers were contradictory. Counts were good off Oregon, with maxima reaching 100+ (PP, MH), but poor off Washington, with most tallies in the single digits (TRW). Horned Puffins were at Bandon 3 Aug (J. Lenhard, B. Foy), near Cape Arago, *Coos*, 11 Aug (*fide* DL), and at Otter Rock, *Lincoln*, OR, 14 Aug (D. Fix); there have been ±90 in the Region in the past 20 years. Most live birds from land occur May–Aug but most at-sea or beached birds are Nov–May.

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Sisters, *Deschutes*, 26 Nov (SS) was rare and late for the eastside. Washington's fourth **White-winged Dove** was at Tokeland 8 Oct (+I. McGregor). Previous records come from May, July, and November. Burrowing Owls, rare in w. Oregon, were at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 13 Oct (TJW) and Salem, *Marion*, 18 Oct+ (SD). The only Snowy Owl was at Moses L., *Grant*, WA, 27 Nov (RH). Though not rare, Boreal Owls are rarely reported, so singles w. of Bend, *Deschutes*, 1–9 Oct (PS) and above Tollgate, *Umatilla*, 9 Oct (MD) were noteworthy. Twelve Black Swifts, rare on the Oregon coast, were at Cannon Beach, *Clatsop*, 24 Aug (B. Godfrey). The peak count of Vaux's Swifts at their traditional U. of Oregon, *Lane*, roost was ±17,000 on 8 Sep (B. Newhouse). A Calliope Hummingbird, rare on the outer coast, was at Astoria, *Clatsop*, 19 Sep (MP). Washington's third **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was an imm. at Sacagawea S.P., *Franklin*, 1 Oct (+MLD, MD); previous records are Dec–Mar.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Least Flycatcher was banded on the outer coast, where casual, at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 25 Aug (DL, KC). Another at Cove Palisades S.P., *Jefferson*, 12 Oct, was about a month late and in e. Oregon, where rare (DI). A Dusky Flycatcher at Wahluke Slope W.M.A., *Franklin*, 2 Oct was three weeks late and likely the latest ever for e. Washington (SM, CH). A Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Sisters 16 Oct was a month late (A. Esche). A Black Phoebe near Klamath Falls, *Klamath*, 21 Nov was e. of its usual range in Oregon (FM). The only westside Say's Phoebe was at N.S.C.B. 2 Oct, a poor showing (TR). Washington's third and most northerly **Vermilion Flycatcher** was an ad. female on Fir I. 24 Oct–10 Nov (D. Gallup, +m.ob.); previous records were Dec–Mar on the westside. An Ash-throated Flycatcher n. of Royal City, *Grant*, WA, 26 Sep was slightly n. of its usual range and a month late (SM, GR, RRm). A migrant E. Kingbird was at Steigerwald L. 4 Sep (WC); though regular during spring on the westside, it is rare during fall. Single Tropical Kingbirds were at Port Orford, *Curry*, 12 Oct (NW), Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 15 Oct (TJW), Pistol R., *Curry*, 13 Nov (DM), and Pistol R. 20 Nov (DM), representing a typical fall but well down from the 23 during 1997 and 1998. There are ±70 Regional records. Two N. Shrikes at M.N.W.R. 10 Sep were three weeks early (MD). The only Blue Jays were at Sisters 25 Oct (*fide* SS) and Spokane 23 Nov (JA, W. Hall), a poor showing; 36 were found during the previous four falls and 20+ during fall 1994. W. Scrub-Jays continue to expand in se. Oregon, with two at Redmond, *Deschutes*, 19 Sep and four at Sisters 20 Sep (SS). Another near Government Camp, *Clackamas*, 24 Sep was near the 4,000-ft line and well out of normal habitat (DM), and one near Naches, 27 Aug was only *Yakima's* third (B. LaBar). Black-billed Magpies are rare in w. Washington and casual w. of the Puget Trough, so one at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, 1 Oct was exceptional (S. Grimel, S. Weinstein).

A belated report of 60 Purple Martin nests at Ridgefield and Steigerwald L. was remarkable for this scarce regional breeder (TSu). A Cliff Swallow at Hammond, *Clatsop*, 25 Nov was at least six weeks late (KAl).

A Rock Wren was at Steigerwald L. 12 Sep (WC); it is a rare fall migrant in w. WA. Washington's fifth **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was at Marymoor Park, *King*, 21-25 Oct (+M. Hobbs, +SM) followed by the sixth at P.N.P. Nov 10+ (+TA, +M. Roening); previous records were Nov–Jan, with three from the westside. Eight N. Mockingbirds was about average, with reports from *Klamath, Coos, Lane, Clatsop, Adams* (Washington), and *Snohomish*, all after 26 Sep. A Gray Catbird, rarely seen during migration, was at Bateman I., *Benton*, WA, 24 Aug (NL, BL). Washington's fourth **Brown Thrasher** was on Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, 8–9 Sep (ph., T. Wootton) followed by the fifth at Wahluke Slope W.M.A., *Grant*, 10 Sep (J. Stephens, +KA, +SM); Oddly, no previous record was from fall. Oregon's fourth **California Thrasher** was at Medford, *Jackson*, 17 Sep (G. Shaffer); previous records are from *Jackson* and *Josephine* in 1967–68, 1977, and 1998.

This Chestnut-collared Longspur, an apparent adult male, provided the fifth Washington record when it appeared in Grays Harbor 27–29 Nov 1999, where it was obligingly photographed 28 Nov. Photograph/Ruth Sullivan

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Magnolia Warbler** at Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, 4 Sep was Washington's 10th (JF, S. Terry), but one at Harris Beach S.P., *Curry*, 16 Oct added to ±30 Oregon records (AB). Oregon's fall records span 19 Sep–25 Oct whereas Washington's are mostly 4–21 Sep. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Grant's Pass, *Josephine*, 14 Nov (DV) was six weeks late, and a Hermit Warbler at Sutherlin, *Douglas*, OR, 9 Oct (K. Wilson) was three weeks late. A **Prairie Warbler** at M.N.W.R. 10 Sep was Oregon's seventh and e. Oregon's first (ph., MD, MLD); one at Lone Ranch State Wayside, *Curry*, 13–25 Oct was Oregon's 8th (DM); previous records span 24 Aug–28 Sep plus one from Dec. A Palm Warbler at Siltcoos Creek, *Lane*, 5 Sep was Oregon's earliest by four days (R. Hoyer). One at Indian Canyon Park, *Spokane*, 18 Sep was on the eastside where rare (JA). Blackpoll Warblers at M.N.W.R. 18 Sep (AC) and Fields, *Harney*, 4 Oct (FM, H. Herlyn, V. Arnold) were expected fall vagrants in se. OR, but one at McKenzie Pass, *Lane*, 27 Sep, was in the mountains, where casual (J. Carlson). A Black-and-white Warbler at Bateman I., *Benton*, 21 Aug was the 37th for WA (BW). Another at Two Rivers County Park, *Benton*, 26 Nov–Dec was only the second late fall/winter record for e. WA (DR); more expected were singles at M.N.W.R. 20 Aug (W. Gross), Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes*, 27 Aug (D. Hale), and Tillamook 17 Oct (JG). A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Frenchglen, *Harney*, 7 Oct was Oregon's sixth (J.&J. Carlson, TM, AM); previous records span 19 Aug–19 Oct plus one from May/June. A Wilson's Warbler at Richland, *Benton*, WA, 11 Nov was exceptionally late, especially for the eastside (NL). A tally of 100 W. Tanagers at Washougal, *Clark*, 6 Sep was exceptional (WC).

Clay-colored Sparrow numbers are exploding in the Region. As of 1994 there were only 32 records from Oregon (*Birds of Oregon*, Gilligan et al.), but last fall there were five and this fall six, five in *Curry/Coos*, 19 Sep–14 Nov (DM, TJW, TR) and one near Eugene, *Lane*, 19 Sep (D. Wendt). W. Washington had its 11th and 12th, at Seattle 7–10 Nov (C. Sidles) and near Bayview, *Skagit*, 14 Nov (BS). Records from e. Washington include singles at Six Prong, *Klickitat*, 11 Sep (SJ), Spokane, 16 Sep (JA), Palouse Falls S.P., *Franklin*, 19 Sep and Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla*, 1 Oct (MD, MLD); there were only three prior e. Washington records in fall. Three Brewer's Sparrows were at Fern Ridge Res., *Lane*, 23 Aug (L. McQueen), one was at Lower Table Rock, *Jackson*, 11 Aug (DV), and another was near Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 19 Oct (PP); they are rare in w. Oregon during fall and rare on the outer coast. A Lark Sparrow was at Gold Beach 15 Oct (DM), the only westside county where it is a regular in fall. A Grasshopper Sparrow, an extremely rare migrant on the westside, was at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, Sep 19 (RRb). Swamp Sparrows at Diamond L., *Douglas*, OR, 16 Sep (DF) and Fir I. 24 Sep (D. Beaudette) were two to three weeks early; ten more later in the fall was about average. White-throated Sparrows were numerous again, with maxima of eight at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos*, 21 Nov (TR) and 7 at Post Office L., *Clark*, 27 Nov (SM). Harris's Sparrows at Lyon's Ferry S.P., *Franklin*, 19 Sep (MD, MLD) and Wanapum S.P., *Kittitas*, 26 Sep (SM,GR, RRm) were only Washington's third and fourth Sep records; five others later in fall rounded out an average fall. Four White-crowned Sparrows at W.W.R.D. 7 Aug, were a month early for the e. lowlands (MD, MLD). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at M.N.W.R. 19 Sep was in se. Oregon, where rare (AC). A Lapland Longspur at O.S. 15 Aug was Washington's earliest ever by two weeks (PtS). Oregon's seventh **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 13 Oct (TJW, DM, J. Rogers) and Washington's fifth was at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, 27–29 Nov (+H. Vail, + P.W. Smith); most previous records are also from the westside. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Fields 1 Nov (Maitreya) and Gladstone, *Clackamas*, 18 Nov (DVB), an average fall for Oregon. Washington's seventh **Indigo Bunting**, first found in summer, remained until 31 Aug near W. Richland, *Benton* (NL, BL). Another at Cape Blanco 19–21 Nov was about the 41st for Oregon and was late (TJW, TR); the great majority have occurred mid-May to early Aug.

Three Bobolinks at Bandon 11 Sep (DL, KC) were on the outer coast, where not annual. A Rusty Blackbird at Confluence S.P., *Chelan*, 3 Oct (KK) was early. Other reports of this rare, regular visitor to Washington include one at Elma, *Grays Harbor*, 28 Nov (PtS, RS), one at Iowa Beef,

Walla Walla, 5 Nov (MD, MLD), and two near Iowa Beef 25 Nov (MD, MLD). A Great-tailed Grackle, casual in ne. OR, was at Mission, *Umatilla*, late Oct–late Nov (CC); almost all Regional records come from *Harney*. Many White-winged Crossbills were present in the central Oregon Cascades, with flocks at McKenzie Pass 6 Sep–Nov (J&J Carlson, SD), Waldo L., *Lane*, 2–24 Oct (PS, FM, TM, AM), and near Sisters, *Deschutes*, 14 Aug (SS). Three near Goldendale, *Klickitat*, 29 Aug (SJ) and one at Tiffany Mtn., *Okanogan*, 19 Sep (SDs) were in Washington's Cascades. Com. Redpolls irrupted into the eastside beginning mid-Nov with ±450 reported from Washington and 15 from Oregon. The largest concentration was 125 at Ritzville, *Adams*, 20 Nov (MD, MLD) and the southernmost were eight at Black Butte Ranch, *Deschutes*, 27–28 Nov (A. Averill). On the westside, where not annual, singles were at Lummi Flats, *Whatcom*, 28 Nov (KK) and Gresham, *Multnomah*, 27 Nov (S. Finnegan, PS). This incursion was larger and several weeks earlier than most.

ADDENDUM

An Emperor Goose at Leadbetter Pen., *Pacific*, 2 Apr 1999 (†M. A. Patten) was inadvertently omitted from the spring report.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Ken Aldridge, Bud Anderson, Tom Aversa, Alan Barron, Dan van den Broek, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Ed Deal, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Steve Dowlan, Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, David Fix, Jim Flynn, Roy Gerig, **Jeff Gilligan** (w. OR), Greg Gillson, Carol Hallett, Carl Haynie, Randy Hill, Matt Hunter, Stuart Johnson, Ken Knittle, Ray Korpi, Bill LaFramboise, Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Frank Mayer, Allison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (*Clallam*), Michael Patterson, Nancy Peate, Phil Pickering, Gene Revelas, Roger Robb (RRb), Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Rick Romea (RRm), Owen Schmidt, Ryan Shaw (RSh), Bill Shelmerdine, Tim Shelmerdine, Stephen Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Jason Starfire, Andy Stepniewski, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Ruth Sullivan, **Paul Sullivan** (e. OR), Bob Sundstrom, Tahni Sutera (TSu), Todd Thornton, Greg Toffic, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Bob Woodley.

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Although warm-water pelagics such as Black-vented Shearwaters and Least and Black Storm-Petrels were scarce, some seabird species were present in record or near-record numbers. Late fall was mild and dry; numerous late or high-elevation landbird migrants were encountered in the Sierra and east, but space precludes details (data in our *N.A.B.* notebooks). There were no irruptions (e.g., Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, finches), except a middling flight of Varied Thrush. It was a good fall for eastern vagrants, but Peter Pyle, summarizing Farallon banding data, asserted that "the big story was a noticeable paucity of western landbird migrants, especially those that winter in California. . . . Many of these were in their lowest abundance recorded here in the past 30 years, and for most the proportion of arrivals that were adults (50%+) was way out of the typical range of 10 to 20%. Our conclusion is that these species must have had very poor reproductive success in the Northwest, consistent with early analysis of results from [banding] programs in Alaska." Pyle also suggested that "summer productivity [may have] more to do with occurrence of vagrants than [do] weather patterns; in 1999 productivity seemed good in eastern North America, perhaps accounting for the good vagrant year."

Abbreviations: C.V. *(Central Valley)*; F.I. *(Southeast Farallon Island)*; S.F. *(San Francisco)*; R.S. *(Regional Shoreline)*; S.R. *(State Reserve)*; W.A. *(Wildlife Area)*. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published, including California Bird Records Committee review species and claims of first county records. Banded birds at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, should be credited to Big Sur Ornithology Lab and those on F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRD

California's first **Shy Albatross,** an individual of the nominate race, was well documented 9 mi wsw. of Pt. Arena, *Mendocino*, 24 Aug (†JiD, W. Russell, BMcK, ph. DLSh, †ph., m.ob.) and was apparently seen off *Sonoma* 25 Sep by the same boat crew (V. Orsini, R. Garcia). A count of 20 to 22 Laysan Albatrosses at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 31 Oct (ShJ), and Black-footed Albatross totals of 204 off *Santa Cruz* 1 Aug (ShJ), 431 off *Sonoma* and *Mendocino* 24–25 Aug (ShJ), and 140 together off *Humboldt* 17 Sep

On the heels of a dark-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater on Monterey Bay in Oct 1998, this light-morph bird just outside Monterey Harbor 26 Sep 1999 provided just the fourth acceptable record for California. Photograph/Debra L. Shearwater

(H. Genger) attested to their abundance. The region's fifth imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** in 12 months was 15 mi w. of Cypress Pt., *Monterey*, 7 Aug (BMcK, RyC, DLSh, †ph. SBT, †m.ob.). A light-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** just outside Monterey Harbor 26 Sep (ph. CKf, ph. DLSh, m.ob.) was California's fourth and *Monterey's* third. Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters were in good numbers, with peak counts of eight on Monterey Bay 16 Oct (ShJ) and 2,115 at Cordell Bank 1 Oct (ShJ), respectively. Only four of 11 Manx Shearwaters were documented: one 6 Sep (†DR, SFB, JBo), one 14 Sep (†JLD), and two 9 Oct (†MMR), all on Monterey Bay. Cold-water *La Niña* conditions were likely responsible for the paucity of Black-vented Shearwaters; singles e. of F.I. 29 Aug (†ASH, LkC) and on Monterey Bay 28 Nov (DLSh et al.) were the only ones reported.

High storm-petrel counts included 2,303 Fork-taileds off Bodega Bay 23 Aug (SNGH, DLSh et al.), an amazing 5,650 (five times the previous Regional record) Fork-taileds at Cordell Bank 13 Sep (DLSh, SNGH, SW et al.), and 1,030 Leach's 60–100 mi. off Gold Bluffs Beach, *Humboldt*, 3 Aug (D. Spight, SWH, DFx). In contrast, the peak Black Storm-Petrel count of 231 off Santa Cruz 4 Oct (ShJ) was far below normal. Four Brown Boobies were recorded this fall, ad. females 35 mi wsw. of Pt. Pinos 23 Sep (ph. J. Wettle, J. Lucido) and at F.I. 1–7 Nov (†PP) and ad. males at F.I. 2–19 Oct (†PP) and Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz*, 20 Oct (†JBo, ph. RT, m.ob.). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird near Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 14–15 Nov (DN, NTC) may have been the imm. frigatebird seen in coastal cen. *Humboldt* 12 Nov (E. Rose, KNN).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Five Am. Bitterns at Abbotts Lagoon, Pt. Reyes, in mid-Nov were a high concentration for *Marin* (RS). A Great Egret at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada*, 12 Sep was rare in the Truckee Basin (BDW). Fourteen Cattle Egrets at Kutras L. 9–13 Nov provided *Shasta's* second record (BED, BY, CY). Just nine White-faced Ibis were reported along the coast, one of them at F.I. 17–18 Sep, where the last occurrence was in 1884 (PRBO)! One at Martis Creek L. 5–21 Aug was a first for *Nevada* (T. Floyd, m.ob.).

Coastal flights of Gr. White-fronted Geese are uncommon but expected every few years but this fall exceeded all expectation with **±600** reported between *Sonoma* and *Monterey* during the first three weeks of Oct. They may have overshot the C.V. but many could have been moving s. to wintering areas in Mexico. One hundred Snow Geese at Mono L., *Mono*, 24 Nov were four times the previous high there (I. Mendelbaum). A flock of 80 small Canadas over Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, 7 Oct were considered Aleutians (RJK, CEV, DT, J. Ward). A Bewick's Swan was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 22 Nov (†RE). An imm. **Garganey** at Rodman Slough 16–22 Oct was *Lake's* first (RS, †JRW, †KKC, †RI). Three documented Tufted Ducks (singles in *Marin*, *Contra Costa* and *Santa Clara*) were a good fall showing. Nine Long-tailed Ducks included two inland at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced*, 11 Nov (KVV, SRv, SAG) and one at Crowley L., *Mono*, 28 Nov (JLD).

Broad-winged Hawks away from the Marin Headlands included two in *Contra Costa* 26 Sep (SAG), four in *Santa Cruz* 8 Oct–17 Nov (DLSu, B. Walton), and one in *San Mateo* 27 Sep (RSTh). Single Swainson's Hawks near Coyote Cr. 15 Aug (LCh) and 22 Sep (AJ) were the first fall reports for *Santa Clara* since 1966 and suggestive of this species' continued recovery in n. California. Rough-legged Hawks staged an invasion starting mid-Oct, with 28 sightings including a dark-morph at F.I. 16 Oct (PRBO). A Gyrfalcon was reported without details at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 14 Nov (K. Spencer).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A freshly eaten **Yellow Rail** corpse at the Smith R. estuary 30 Oct was *Del Norte's* first (ph. ADB, E. Cooper). Rarely noted in migration, a Black Rail flushed at Ukiah 2 Nov was a first for *Mendocino* (†GEC). Rare coastal Sandhill Cranes were at Arcata, *Humboldt*, 14 Oct (KI) and in *San Mateo* 17 Oct (RSTh) and 20–26 Oct (†B. Nerricio, m.ob.), *Santa Clara* 28 Oct (W. Cabot), and *Sonoma* 8 Nov (D. Ashford, T. Eliot).

Six Black-bellied Plovers at Clear L. 24 Aug–12 Oct more than doubled totals for *Lake* (DvW, JRW). Seventeen Mountain Plovers at Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, 29 Oct was a high number away from wintering sites (RJR). A Solitary Sandpiper at Indian Creek Res. 22 Aug was *Alpine's* first (†MiF). A juv. Hudsonian Godwit was at the Eel River W.A., *Humboldt* 17–19 Oct (†KI, †KNN, ph. BAc). F.I.'s first Bar-tailed Godwit appeared 11 Sep (†PP); another was at King Salmon, *Humboldt*, 29 Aug (†KNN). A Ruddy Turnstone at Lincoln 2 Sep (C. Hawley, E. Panolfino, BWb) was *Placer's* first but was eclisped by *Lake's* first **Black Turnstone** at Clear L. 15 Sep (†DvW, †JRW). Among 38 inland Sanderlings was *Trinity's* first at Lewiston Res. 7 Aug (†SAG). Interior Semipalmated Sandpipers were *Alpine's* first at Indian Creek Res. 21–24 Aug (TEa, JSL), *Placer's* second or third at Lincoln 18 Sep (†C. Hawley), and one at Mono L. 11 Sep (PJM). A Baird's Sandpiper at King City, *Monterey*, 5 Nov provided one of few Nov records for the Region (J&HBa). The only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was a juv. at Salinas, *Monterey*, 9–11 Oct (BHG, ph. BHl). A Curlew

Sandpiper was at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, 14–19 Sep (M. O'Brien, RS et al.). Lone Buff-breasted Sandpipers were in *Santa Clara* 7 Sep (SCR) and in *Humboldt* 13–16 Sep (SMcA) and 20–28 Sep (RHw). Two Short-billed Dowitchers at Loyaltone Sewage Ponds 12 Aug were the first documented in *Sierra* (†MMc); eight at F.I. 1–14 Oct nearly doubled the island total (PP).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Monterey counts of 28 South Polar Skuas on Monterey Bay 18 Sep (ShJ) and 25 w. of Pt. Pinos 19 Sep (ShJ) were high; eight at F.I.1–14 Oct nearly doubled the island total (PP). A good showing of Pomarine Jaegers included 70 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep and 14 Nov and 77 w. of Pt. Pinos 19 Sep (all ShJ). Long-tailed Jaeger counts peaked at 62 at Cordell Bank 29 Aug (RS); one–two near Cordell Bank 14 Nov. (DLSh et al.) were only two days shy of the record late date. Rare inland jaegers included a juv. Parasitic at L. Berryessa, *Napa*, 30 Oct (RSTh) and *Lake's* second Long-tailed, a subadult at Indian Valley Res. 31 Aug–11 Sep (W. McKinney, †JRW).

A total of three Laughing Gulls, adults at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, 25 Aug (†JBo, JND) and Pebble Beach, *San Mateo*, 11 Sep (AWi) and a second-year bird at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 28–29 Aug (ph. RS, CCb, m.ob.), was high, especially in fall. Fourteen Franklin's Gulls (nine coastal, five inland) from a record 10 counties 8 Aug–21 Nov included *Placer's* first at Folsom L. 5 Nov (BWb) and *Nevada's* second at Prosser Creek Res. 12 Sep (BDW). In San Jose, *Santa Clara*, the ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Alviso for its fifth winter 16 Oct (†SCR) and the fourth-basic bird returned to L. Cunningham for its third winter 1 Nov+ (†MMR). Sabine's Gull counts of 650 at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 13 Sep (ShJ) and 600 (including 500 in one flock) sw. of Humboldt Bay 19 Sep (SWH et al.) were high, but a juv. at Crowley L. 11 Sep (JLD) was the only one inland.

Com. Terns were widespread and in good numbers, peaking in mid-Sep. A count of 240 at Humboldt Bay 14 Sep (DFx) was high. Inland, one in juv. plumage at Stampede Res., *Sierra*, 8 Sep (†SAG) and up to *15* at Kelsey Cr. mouth on Clear Lake 10-22 Sep (†JRW et al.) provided first county records, while 21 at Crowley L. 10 Sep (PJM) doubled the previous inland high. A juv. Arctic Tern at the Lodi sewage plant 12–20 Sep (DGY, WRH) was the fourth for the C.V., all from *San Joaquin*; 3,500 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep (ShJ) was high. California's second

California's second White-winged Tern, photographed 7 Sep 1999, remained at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey, 17 Aug–16 Oct, long enough to complete molt from Alternate I to Basic II plumage. The gray crown, whitish rump, squaretipped tail, small bill, and lack of dark breastside patches distinguish this species from the Black Tern in this plumage. Photograph/Ronald L. Branson

White-winged Tern was at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, at least 6 Sep–16 Oct (E. Kwater, m.ob.). Apparently present since 17 Aug, this bird was misidentified as a Black Tern by birders unfamiliar with its first-basic plumage until scrutinized by Kwater. Its long stay allowed observers to study its molt into second-basic plumage by Oct. As Black Skimmers increase, tracking numbers and movements is increasingly difficult. Noteworthy among the 15–30 in seven counties were two at Bodega Bay 20–24 Sep (DN, BDP), at least three in *Marin*, including the county's first bayside bird in Corte Madera 8 Aug (M. Sundove, RS), and late nesting at Hayward R.S., where a nest with three eggs 30 Aug was later abandoned (†RJR).

An imm. Thick-billed Murre off Santa Cruz 4 Oct (BMcK, CKf, DLSh, ph. S. Fried) and an alternate adult nearby 17 Oct (DLSh, TMcG, ph. A. Hunter) represented the second and third *Santa Cruz* records; another 2.5 mi. off Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, 18 Sep (†CHo, JBo) was only the second state record s. of Cypress Point. Marbled Murrelet counts of 150 near Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo*, 16 Aug (PJM) and 109 off s. *Santa Cruz* 24 Nov (L. Henkel) were high for these areas. Although Xantus's Murrelets were not particularly numerous, the predominance of the southerly race *hypoleucus* relative to the more expected *scrippsi* race was unprecedented; 30 of 34 at Cordell Bank 13 Sep were apparently *hypoleucus* (DLSh et al.). An influx of Horned Puffins brought ten to the cen. coast 7–26 Aug.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Four White-winged Doves reached coastal *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 20 Aug–11 Nov. Five Barn Owls 27 Oct provided a new F.I. high and one at Mono L. 26 Nov (J.R. Jehl) was the latest record in *Mono*. A Flammulated Owl at Cosumnes R. Preserve 25 Oct (JTr) was *Sacramento's* third, all from Oct. A Barred Owl at Humboldt Bay's n. spit 28 Sep was *Humboldt's* first outer-coastal occurrence (KI et al.). An injured Com. Nighthawk in Sacramento 15 Sep (TDM) provided a rare C.V. record, but what would have been *Yolo's* first went undocumented. Two Chimney Swifts were on F.I. 16 Sep (PP). The landbird highlight of the season was a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** at Westhaven, *Humboldt*, 17–23 Sep, representing the northernmost occurrence of this species (S. de Rooy, †SWH, ph. RLeV, ph. GjH, m.ob.). Vagrant Black-chinned Hummingbirds provided F.I.'s fourth record 9 Sep and *Del Norte's* second at Crescent City 1 Oct (ADB). Three imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported: Phipps Ranch, *San Mateo*, 16 Oct (RSTh, AWi), and in *Santa Cruz* at Soquel 15 Nov (DLSu) and Rancho Del Oso 20 Nov+ (A. Kopitov, DLSu).

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** giving both upslurred *pwee* and multiple *chip* calls was voice recorded near Pt. Sur, *Monterey*, 21–25 Sep (†JBo, tape B. Wilkerson, †CHo, †DR et al.). Over 140 Willow Flycatchers, with a high of 23 at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa*, 3 Sep (SAG), were found 20 Aug–16 Oct; three on F.I. 4–15 Sep showed characters of the nominate eastern race. Seven Least Flycatchers 11–23 Sep included one at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 23 Sep (TEa) and two well-documented at Coyote Creek, *Santa Clara*, 20–23 Sep (†SCR, NL, †MMR, †MJM). Other *Empidonax* included three coastal Hammond's 27 Sep–18 Oct, five coastal Duskies 12–22 Sep, and *San Joaquin's* first fall Gray 14 Aug (DGY). Eight E. Phoebes beginning 19 Sep included mainland *S.F.*'s first 1 Nov (†K. McKerrigan) and one at Merced N.W.R., *Merced*, 23 Nov+ (†RF, †KKw et al.). A Great Crested Flycatcher thrilled many 16–19 Sep at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (CT, †DR, m.ob.). The Region's sixth **Sulphur-bellied**

Flycatcher was at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, 18–20 Sep (†RSTh, vt. D. Powell et al.). Among 24 Tropical Kingbirds was *Humboldt's* earliest 12 Sep at Eel R. mouth (JEH, D. Solis). Six E. Kingbirds 5–30 Sep were coastal. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (ad. female?) graced Samoa, *Humboldt*, 16–17 Oct (P.&L. Rousch, m.ob.).

Six N. Shrikes included an imm. near Clear L. Oaks 11–15 Nov, *Lake's* third (DvW, JRW et al.); a Loggerhead at Hopland 4–6 Oct was the first in *Mendocino* "in several years" (RJK et al.). Seven Blue-headed Vireos 12 Sep–14 Nov and five Plumbeous Vireos 10 Sep–5 Nov were coastal, but only two Blue-headeds were documented: Big Sur R. mouth 12 Sep (†CHo; banded) and Eureka, *Humboldt*, 3 Nov (†JCP). *Monterey's* summering Yellow-throated Vireo was recaptured 17 Sep at Big Sur R. mouth and fall vagants appeared in "early Sep" at Olema marsh, *Marin* (RS) and Carmel R. mouth 15–23 Oct (†DR, BHl, RC, m.ob.). Philadelphia Vireos were at Drakes Beach, *Marin*, 12 Sep (RS, m.ob.), Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, 24–25 Sep (†RSTh, AWi et al.), Golden Gate Park, *S.F.*, 25 Sep–18 Oct (J. Matkin, †MEa, †HCt), Big Sur R. mouth 29 Sep–17 Oct (ph. JBo; banded); Carmel R. mouth 29 Sep–3 Oct (†BHl et al.), and Five Brooks, *Marin*, 29 Sep (RS et al.). Twelve Red-eyed Vireos included *Santa Cruz's* latest at Santa Cruz 1 Nov (M. Scott). Scattered migrant Purple Martins included two records from S.F. Bay, Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, 11 Aug (six; RSTh) and Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara*, 5 Sep (MJM). Four Cliff Swallows at F.I. 23–27 Oct continued the mysterious recent trend of late Oct records. Single Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at F.I. 10–16 Sep and Pt. Reyes lighthouse, *Marin*, 1 Oct (RS, CCb, LHg, H. Cameron).

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Gray Catbird near Lincoln 12 Sep (†TEa) was a *Placer* first. Brown Thrashers were at Muddy Hollow, *Marin*, 11 Oct (BDP) and on F. I. 14–17 Oct (PP). It was not a season for Siberian vagrants, but a Yellow Wagtail was on F.I. 12 Sep (no details received) and Red-throated Pipits were documented from Pt. Reyes 1–4 Oct (RS, †CCb et al.), F.I. 16–18 Oct, and Arcata bottoms, *Humboldt*, 20 Oct (†DFx). An early Am. Pipit was on New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz*, 24–25 Aug (worn or molting ad.; R. Wolfe). Unexpected Phainopeplas were at Big Sur R. mouth 6 Sep (KVV) and at Sutter, *Sutter*, 16 Oct (two imm.; BED).

Writing about fall warblers in our Region has become like writing about baseball: heavy on statistics. Leading the hit parade were (coastal totals in parentheses): Palm (185), Blackpoll (105), Chestnut-sided (101), Am. Redstart (97), Tennessee (40), Magnolia (37), Black-and-white (35), N. Waterthrush (26), Blackburnian (25), Prairie (22), Black-throated Blue (15), and Ovenbird (12). These totals were solidly high, but just how high? Consider the Chestnut-sided Warbler, whose 101 individuals set a new fall record. In 1974, a "great" fall for eastern vagrants, there were only 36 birds, 29 (81%) from F.I. or *Marin*. This fall F.I. and *Marin* contributed 41 birds, so numbers were up, but 13 were found by eight observers at nine different *San Mateo* sites and another 12 were from *Monterey*, counties where none were reported 25 years ago. We think Chestnut-sideds had a fine year—reflective of high populations and productivity in the East—but totals are now exaggerated by a much wider search. A simple comparison between decades can be misleading.

More coverage inland yielded commoner vagrants. Tennessees were at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 14 Sep (JTr) and Lodi Lakes, *San Joaquin*, 12 Sep (DGY, WRH). Chestnut-sideds were at Butte College, Durham, 18–20 Oct (*Butte's* second; A. Bills, †TDM, BWb) and Merced N.W.R. 26 Nov–12 Dec (*Merced's* first; †KKw et al.). Given its recent rarity statewide, a Cape May at Lodi Lakes 9 Oct (†TEa, F. Steurer) was exceptional and a *San Joaquin* first. Three Blackpolls were at Cosumnes R. Preserve 11–14 Sep (JTr, ph. WEH, JML); one near Lincoln 12 Sep was a *Placer* first (†TE). An ad. male Am. Redstart in Yosemite Valley 21 Sep (†DLSu) and a N. Waterthrush at E. Park Res. 11 Sep (†BDW) were, respectively, *Mariposa* and *Colusa* firsts.

Spruce-forest specialists were well down (as they have been all decade), with only one coastal Cape May 1 Oct at Pt. Reyes (†CCb, LHg); two Bay-breasteds, 2–4 Oct near Pt. Sur, *Monterey* (JBo, †DR, SFB et al.) and 4–5 Oct near Fairhaven, *Humboldt* (KI); and five Canadas on F.I. Also oddly low were N. Parulas (three) and Black-throated Greens (four). Among scarcer s. species, the fall brought 11 Virginia's, including *Santa Clara's* second at Palo Alto Baylands 13 Sep (†SCR, MMR, MJM), three Lucy's, one *albilora* Yellow-throated 25 Oct in Arcata, *Humboldt* (†DFx, JCP), five Prothonotaries, including *Mendocino's* second at Ft. Bragg 7–12 Nov (L. McMurty, ph. †RJK, †KKC, †RKl), and two Hoodeds, 2–3 Oct at Pt. Reyes (RS, GGrf, †KSw et al.) and a male at Aptos, *Santa Cruz*, 29 Oct–12 Dec (H. De Diego). Well-documented mainland *Oporornis* were a Connecticut at Pt. Reyes 2–4 Oct (RS, E. Blustem, †BDP, †KSw, m.ob.) and Mournings at Pt. Pinos 11–12 Sep (SBT, L. Terrill, JSy, †DR, RC), Big Sur R. mouth 15 Sep (male banded), and Tunitas Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, 12 Sep (†RSTh); F.I. hosted two Connecticuts and three Mournings (†PP).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only four Summer Tanagers appeared, but included *Mendocino's* second at Van Damme S.P. 13 Nov (†A. DeMartini) and two in *Sacramento*, at Cosumnes R. Preserve 6 Sep (A. Engilis) and Arden Park 7 Oct (†TDM). A late Scarlet Tanager was described from Pt. Reyes 28 Nov (†KSw). Rufous-crowned Sparrow is primarily resident but some dispersal occurs in late fall, accounting for firsts for Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, 10 Oct (RJR) and F.I. 29 Nov+ (PP). Seven coastal Am. Tree Sparrows from *Humboldt* to F.I. were more than usual. Totals of coastal/Bay Area Clay-colored (68), Brewer's (16), and Vesper (27) Sparrows were also high, setting records in some counties. Rarer still were coastal Black-throated Sparrows at Big Sur R. mouth 4–5 Sep (SBT, †DR, RC) and Eel River W.A., *Humboldt*, 20 Oct–1 Nov (†KKN et al.). Three Lark Buntings strayed far west, including *Santa Clara's* 4th in Alviso 18 Sep (†NL). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the Eel R. delta 10 Nov (SMcA) was a *Humboldt* highlight. Coastal Swamp Sparrows were numerous from *Del Norte* (8 birds; ADB) to *Monterey* (12); another was at Mono L. Park 24 Oct (MMR, SCR). A "pure" *caniceps* Gray-headed Junco visited a Pacific Grove, *Monterey*, yard 14 Nov (ph. DR, RC).

Scattered coastal longspurs were expected, but a mixed flock near Dunnigan after 23 Nov of 50+ Chestnut-collareds, a half-dozen Laplands, and four McCown's (a *Yolo* first; TEa, SCH, m.ob.) was a C.V. surprise. Additional Laplands and Chestnut-collareds were in *Sutter* 24 Nov (TEa, M. Baumgardner) and near Tulare 26 Nov (four Lapland, two Chestnut-collared, the former a *Tulare* first; RH, KH). Another Chestnut-collared was at South L. Tahoe, *El Dorado*, 23 Nov (TEa). Snow Buntings reached Clam Beach, *Humboldt*, 14–15 Nov (ph. BAc, †KI), F.I. 28 Oct and 6 Nov (†S. Anderson), and Purisima Cr. mouth, *San Mateo*, 7 Nov (†RSTh).

Numbers of vagrant grosbeaks and

buntings were down. About 16 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reached the coast but an ad. male visited a feeder in *Nevada* 16–17 Aug (J.&J. Olsen). Only four Indigo Buntings appeared but included an ad. female feeding a fledgling at Pt. Reyes 12–17 Sep (RS) and late birds 14–15 Nov at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* (†SRv et al.) and 16–17 Nov at Pacifica, *San Mateo* (B. Nerricio, DSg, JM). An imm. Painted Bunting briefly visited Carmel R. mouth 19 Sep (†SRv, D. Werner). Three Dickcissels hit the outer coast from *Del Norte* to *Santa Cruz*. Only 22 Bobolinks were reported (13 on F.I.).

Unexpected Yellow-headed Blackbirds included the first S.F. City record in a decade (DPM, ph. MEa) and 7+ near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte*, 22 Aug–14 Oct (ADB). The only Rusty Blackbird was along Harkins Slough 20 Oct (DLSu). Wayward Great-tailed Grackles included a female at King Salmon 28 Nov+ (*Humboldt's* second; M. Wachs, T. Leskiw, DFx, JCP) and a pair at Pt. Pinos 17 Oct (JBo et al.); small groups at Seaside, *Monterey* (RC, m.ob.) and Beals Pt., Folsom L., *Placer* (BWb) now appear resident. Vagrant orioles included 16 Orchards but just two Baltimores. A family party of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches near Thimble Peak 8 Aug provided records for *Alpine* and *Amador* (MFRb), where rarely reported.

ADDENDUM

A singing N. Parula at L. Almanor 30 May 1999 (†Aaron Brees) was a *Plumas* first and one of few in our interior mountains.

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Brian Acord, Stephen F. Bailey, Jim & Helen Banks, **Alan D. Barron, William G. Bousman,** Jim Booker, **Penelope K. Bowen,** Rita Carratello, Kris K. Carter, George E. Chaniot, Les Chibano, Ryan Chornock, **Luke Cole,** Nancy T. Conzett, Chris Corben, **Hugh Cotter,** Jim Danzenbaker, Jeff N. Davis, **Bruce E. Deuel,** Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom,** Rick Fournier, **David Fix,** Bruce H. Gerow, Yohn Gideon, **Steven A. Glover,** George Griffeths, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Rob Hansen, W. Ed Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Gjon C. Hazard, Rob Hewitt, Bill Hill, Craig Hohenberger, Waldo R. Holt, Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N. G. Howell, Lisa Hug, **John E. Hunter,** Ken Irwin, Richard K. Irwin, Al Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer,** Clay Kempf, Keith Kwan, Jeri M. Langham, **Robin L.C. Leong,** Nick Lethaby, Ronald LeValley, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis, Peter J. Metropulos,** Sean McAllister, J. "Mac" McCormick, Todd McGrath, Bert McKee, Joe Morlan, Dan P. Murphy, Kristie N. Nelson, Dan Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude C. Power, Peter Pyle,** Robert J. Richmond, **Michael F. Robbins, Don Roberson,** Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill,** Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater (DLSh), Shearwater Journeys, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, **Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian** (DLSu), Kirk Swenson, Chris Tenney, Richard Ternullo, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren,** Bruce Webb, Sophie Webb, **Jerry R. White, Brian D. Williams,** Adam Winer, Dave Woodward, David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy.** Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

southern pacific coast

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Southern California experienced one of the driest falls on record, with no storms from the Gulf of Alaska pushing south into the Region by the end of November. A steady movement of "normal" western migrants in August and September appeared to end at the end of September, with only stragglers still on the move in October and November. No major movements of mountain species into the lowlands or northern birds into the Region were detected. An expected number of rarities were found, including a few accidental stragglers to California, along with one species previously unrecorded in the state.

Abbreviations: C.L. *(China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern Co.);* E.A.F.B. *(Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern Co.);* F.C.R. *(Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, Inyo);* G.H.P. *(Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern Co.);* I.M.P.P. *(Iron Mountain Pumping Plant, se. San Bernardino Co.);* N.E.S.S. *(north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.);* S.C.R.E. *(Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.);* S.E.S.S. *(south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.);* S.F.K.R.P. *(South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern Co.).* Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Reports of Pacific Loons from inland included two in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, between 30 Sep and 6 Nov (T&JH), one at C.L. 2 Oct (JCW), one at S.E.S.S. 24 Oct (GSLeB) and one on Silverwood L. in the San Bernardino Mts. 20 Nov (SJM); this species is a rare but regular fall migrant through the interior. A Flesh-footed Shearwater 30 mi sw. of Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 19 Sep (GPS) was the only one reported. Buller's Shearwaters appeared to be more widespread in s. California waters than usual, as suggested by twenty-five 40 mi sw. of Morro Bay 10 Sep (GPS), 30+ between Santa Barbara and Santa Rosa I. 28 Aug (GR), one 9 mi s. of Pt. Fermin, *Los Angeles*, 14 Oct (BA), two off Newport Beach, *Orange*, 11 Sep (GLT), and six off San Diego 29 Aug (GMcC). A **Manx Shearwater** five mi off Ventura 20 Sep (ST, DDJ) is the southernmost thus far reported in California. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels 40 mi sw. of Morro Bay 10 Sep (GPS) and 50 mi

wsw. of Morro Bay 7 Oct (BAB) were a little to the south of their normal pelagic range. A **Black Storm-Petrel** at S.E.S.S. 14 Aug (DS) established the third record of this species inland on the Salton Sea.

Five Red-billed Tropicbirds near San Nicolas I. 21 Aug (KLG) were in an area where small numbers are probably regular at this time of the year. An imm. **Masked Booby** on the breakwater at the entrance to Los Angeles harbor 13 Nov (CTC) was one of few reported in California. An ad. Brown Booby was on the breakwater at the entrance to Ventura Harbor 7-12 Sep (RS), another adult was 10 mi sw. of Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, 11 Sep (BMu), and four adults were still present on the Los Coronados Is. 19 Aug (*fide* DWA). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird at S.E.S.S. 21 Aug (CMcG), with probably the same bird at N.E.S.S. 28 Aug (MAP), was the only one reported.

HERONS THROUGH HAWKS

Three Tricolored Herons were found along the coast of *San Diego*, where a few are found each winter, with an imm. on s. San Diego Bay 14 Oct+ (GMcC), another at the San Diego R. mouth 6 Nov+ (TH), and an ad. at the Tijuana R. mouth near Imperial Beach 23 Oct+ (WJM). A fourth was at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 10–22 Oct (CR). At least three Reddish Egrets were also found along the coast of *San Diego*, with an adult returning for its 18th winter at the Tijuana R. mouth/s. San Diego Bay 19 Aug+ (GMcC), an imm. at the Santa Margarita R. mouth 21 Aug–2 Sep (BF), what may have been this same imm. in Del Mar 25 Sep+ (BF), and another imm. at the San Diego R. mouth 11 Aug+ (JRS). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Del Mar 20 Nov (KMe) was most likely the individual that has been present in this general area since 1981. An ad. **Glossy Ibis** in basic plumage at Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, 29–31 Aug (MAP) was the first to be reported in California.

Three Tundra Swans on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 29 Oct (T & JH) were the earliest this fall and one near Lakeview, *Riverside*, 21 Nov (AEM) was the southernmost. An expected number of Eur. Wigeon were found along the coast after mid-Oct, but one at G.H.P. 3–6 Nov (MTH) was the only one in the true interior. A male Harlequin Duck initially found in Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles*, 16 May 1999 was still present 3 Oct (RB), and another was in Imperial Beach 7 Nov+ (JiM). The only Surf Scoters reported inland were two at C.L. 3 Nov (SSt) and one at Saratoga Springs, *San Bernardino*, 18 Oct (KL). A summering White-winged Scoter was still present at N.E.S.S. 2 Oct (MAP). A few Black Scoters were found along the coast in Nov as expected, with two as far south as Imperial Beach 8 Nov+ (BF, PAG).

A N. Goshawk at G.H.P. 31 Oct (KSG) was the first to be found in the *Kern* desert. A Harris's Hawk in the w. Antelope Valley, Los Angeles, 10 Oct (MSanM) was the same bird present since the winter of 1996–97, but three near Indio, *Riverside*, 11–27 Nov (RCH, WJM) appeared to be new arrivals. Two Broad-winged Hawks were along the coast in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 29 Sep (JLD) and single migrants were in Downey, *Los Angeles*, 9 Sep (JSc), Irvine, *Orange*, 16 Oct (JSB), Mission Viejo, *Orange*, 29 Sep (BED), La Jolla, *San Diego*, 6 Oct (SSm), and on Point Loma in San Diego 17 Nov (JRS). Inland were an imm. at G.H.P. 24 Sep (MTH) and an ad. at Desert Center, *Riverside*, 6 Oct (MSanM). The largest flocks of migrant Swainson's Hawks included 140 roosting at Borrego Springs in e. *San Diego* 19–20 Oct (PJ), a similar number roosting near El Centro, *Imperial*, 24–25 Oct (KZK), 60 near Bakersfiled, *Kern*, 29 Sep (PAG), and 36 close to the coast over Sherman Oaks, *Los Angeles*, 18 Sep (DK). One along the coast over Irvine 4 Nov (BE) and another inland over Brawley, *Imperial*, 26 Nov (BMi) were late. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 14 Oct+ (DCom) was the same bird that has spent the past six winters in that area. Another was near Ventura 9 Oct (BS, DDJ) and an adult near Escondido, *San Diego*, 20 Oct+ (PAG) was believed to be one of two present here last winter. The only Rough-legged Hawks to reach s. California were on the Carrizo Plains, *San Luis Obispo*, 9 Nov+ (BKS) and near Big Pine 25 Nov (JLD).

CRANES THROUGH GULLS

A flock of 25 Sandhill Cranes over Norco, *Riverside*, 13 Nov (CH) and one at the Santa Maria R, mouth, *San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara* 15 Sep (JMC) were away from areas of normal occurrence. One on s. San Diego Bay 4 Dec (DPa) was the first in *San Diego* in modern times.

Migrant Am. Golden-Plovers included single birds along the coast near Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 12 Nov (BAB), in Cayucos, *San Luis Obispo*, 30 Oct (GPS), near Orcutt, *Santa Barbara* Nov 13 (JSt), near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*, 11 Sep (DDJ), at S.C.R.E. 26 Oct (DDJ) and in Irvine 28 Aug–2 Sep (ST), and one photographed inland at S.E.S.S. 11–12 Nov (KZK). A Pacific Golden-Plover at the Santa Maria R. mouth 26 Oct+ (BAB, WW), three near Port Hueneme 23 Sep+ (DDJ) and four at Seal Beach, *Orange*, 28 Sep+ (JF) were at known wintering localities, but one at Bolsa Chica 30 Oct–11 Nov (PK) and another

California has fewer than 20 records of the Upland Sandpiper, with this juvenile photographed on the last date of its 19–23 Oct 1999 stay in the Tijuana River valley, San Diego, providing the latest record by far in fall. Photograph/Larry Sansone

inland near Brawley, *Imperial*, 17 Oct (BMi) were believed to be migrants. A Mtn. Plover near Lakeview 2 Sep (MAP) and two on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine 9 Sep (JLD) were early; individuals near Port Hueneme 23 Oct (ST) and near Oceanside 19 Oct (PAG) were the only two found along the coast. An Am. Oystercatcher was on the w. shore of San Clemente I. 4–5 Aug (KaM).

A Solitary Sandpiper at Upper Otay L., *San Diego*, 20 Nov (PU) was remarkably late for a migrant and may more likely have been attempting to winter locally. A Wandering Tattler photographed at S.E.S.S. 3–4 Oct (KZK) was inland where casual. A juv. **Upland Sandpiper** near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, 19–23 Oct (GMcC) was the 12th to be found in s. California and the latest by three weeks of the five previously found in fall. A juv. Ruddy Turnstone on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine 9 Sep (PL) and a juv. Red Knot near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 5 Sep (KLG) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. At least 19 Semipalmated Sandpipers along the coast in August, including a late individual in Irvine 22 Sep (BED), and 11 in the ne. portion of the Region during the same period were below average numbers. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper well photographed at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 9 Nov–6 Dec (GE) is one of only a few found in s. California. An ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 10–11 Aug (DAK) and another at the Santa Ynez R. mouth 50 miles to the wnw. 13–16 Aug (BKH) are the ninth and 10th to be found in s. California in fall. Up to eight Stilt Sandpipers near Port Hueneme 6–11 Sep (DPe) and single juvs. at S.C.R.E. 6 Aug (DDJ), Irvine 5–8 Aug (MB), and Huntington Beach, *Orange*, 3 Oct–20 Nov (LRH) were the only ones found away from S.E.S.S. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper near Port Hueneme 23–26 Sep (DDJ) was the only one found this fall. Three Ruffs were reported, a male in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, 9–10 Oct (MAH), another male at S.E.S.S. 13–14 Aug (BMu), and a female there 14 Aug (NW). A Red Phalarope on Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 5 Aug (T&JH) was the only one found inland.

A juv. Parasitic Jaeger at S.E.S.S. 11 Sep (PAG) was the only jaeger reported inland. An ad. Laughing Gull at Santa Monica, *Los Angeles*, 3 Nov (DSP) was on the coast, where decidedly rare. One Franklin's Gull in Huntington Beach 16 Nov (SGM) and seven more inland between 2 Aug and 22 Oct (SSt, BMu, JZ) was far fewer than expected. An ad. Heermann's Gull at S.E.S.S. 24 Oct–5 Dec was considered the same bird present here since 2 March 1999 (MAP). A Mew Gull at E.A.F.B. 30 Oct (MSanM) was only the second to be found in e. *Kern*. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at S.E.S.S. 17 Sep–21 Nov (BMu, GMcC). A Sabine's Gull on Tinemaha Res. 9 Sep (JLD), two on nearby Owens L. 12 Sep (RH), and another at F.C.R. 14–18 Sep (JRJ, TEW) were fewer than expected inland.

Although the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is regular on the West Coast in late fall, this juvenile at Bolsa Chica, Orange, California, 9 Nov–6 Dec 1999 not only remained nearly a month but provided one of the southernmost records. This image was captured 14 Nov. Photograph/Kenneth Z. Kurland

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A White-winged Dove in the town of Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 17 Sep (BAB) was the northernmost of 15 along the coast. Inca Doves continue to spread into se. California, with single birds in Temecula, *Riverside*, 1 Oct (WJM), Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, 20 Nov (CH), and California City, *Kern*, 10 Oct (WJM) establishing the westernmost records to date. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Big River near Vidal, *San Bernardino*, 4 Sep (BMu) was in the e. part of the Region, where much rarer than along the coast. Female Calliope Hummingbirds near Lone Pine, *Inyo* 21 Sep (JLD) and at G.H.P. 24–25 Sep (MTH) were unusually late. Nine Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scattered throughout the Region 8 Oct–9 Nov, all but an adult at G.H.P. 23 Oct+ (MTH) being in juvenile plumage.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at I.M.P.P. 19 Sep (MAP) was the eighth to be found in s. California, all in fall; an *Empidonax* suspected to be this species was at G.H.P. 26 Sep (KSG, TEW). A Least Flycatcher near Imperial Beach 17 Nov+ (BMu) was believed to be the same individual that spent the last two winters at this location. Three E. Phoebes, inland at F.C.R. 4 Nov (MJSanM) and near Lakeview 14 Nov+ (AEM) and along the coast in Huntington Beach 10–14 Nov (JEP), were an average number for this time of the year. A Vermilion Flycatcher in the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, 12 Oct (REM) was a little to the ne. of its normal range in California. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was in Oceano 21–26 Nov (DG). Eleven Tropical Kingbirds along the coast 1–18 Oct were fewer than usual. A Thick-billed Kingbird in Pomona, *Los Angeles*, 2 Nov+ (TEW) was the same individual that has spent the past seven winters at this location. Only four E. Kingbirds were reported, one at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, 7 Sep (WW), another at Malibu, *Los Angeles*, 5 Sep (JI), and two at F.C.R. between 13 and 18 Sep (JRJ, TEW).

A Yellow-throated Vireo at G.H.P. 9 Oct (VH) was the first to be found in *Kern* in fall. A Hutton's Vireo, an accidental straggler to the e. portions of this Region, was in California City 20–27 Oct (MTH). Five Philadelphia Vireos were reported, with birds along the coast at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, 24 Oct (BKS), Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, 27–31 Oct (BAB), and Lakeside, *San Diego*, 3–10 Nov (GMcC) and inland at G.H.P. 12 Sep (JCW) and 25–26 Sep (KSG). Eight Red-eyed Vireos along the coast 19 Aug–12 Oct (DCoo, BKH, KLP, JEP, MSanM, GPS), with an unusually late

individual inland at G.H.P. 23 Oct (MTH), was about average. The only Yellow-green Vireos found this fall were one on Santa Cruz I. 17 Sep (CP) and single individuals on Pt. Loma 17 Sep (DWA) and 11 Oct (BMu, MFa).

CHICKADEES THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

A Mtn. Chickadee in Arroyo Grande 19 Sep (JMC) was only the sixth to be found in *San Luis Obispo*. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Goleta 4 Sep (JHo) was s. of this species' known range. Two Bushtits of the gray interior race *plumbeus* near Inyo 31 Oct (SSt) were the first the be found in *Kern*; they were followed by four in California City 20–23 Nov (TEW) and seven at G.H.P. 21–29 Nov (TEW), suggesting a sw. movement of these birds. A handful of Brown Creepers along the s. coast of the Region after mid-Oct, along with single birds at F.C.R. 16 Oct (SJM) and at nearby Panamint Springs 12 Nov (JSL), suggested a small movement of these birds. A **Sedge Wren** in the Saline Valley 12 Nov (REM) was the first to be found in *Inyo*.

Townsend's Solitaires on Pt. Loma 9–10 Oct (JW) and at Finney L., *Imperial*, 31 Oct (BMi) were away from areas of expected occurrence. A **Rufous-backed Robin** photographed at F.C.R. 20–27 Nov (TEW) was the ninth to be found in California. The only Gray Catbirds found this fall were single birds on Pt. Loma in San Diego 31 Oct–30 Nov (DA), and inland in the Saline Valley 11 Nov (REM), G.H.P. 29 Sep–6 Oct (KSG), and near Calipatria, *Imperial*, 26 Oct (MFl). A Brown Thrasher at F.C.R. 14–23 Sep (JRJ, TEW) was the only one reported. A Bendire's Thrasher at Big Sycamore Campground, Pt. Mugu S.P., *Ventura*, 18–26 Sep (DCoo) was the only one found along the coast. A Red-throated Pipit was heard flying overhead in Los Osos 17 Oct (JSR). A Sprague's Pipit was carefully identified in the Saline Valley 30 Oct (REM). A Gray Silky-flycatcher (origin unknown) found on Point Loma in San Diego 16 Jun (REW) was still present 18 Aug (JRS).

WOOD-WARBLERS

The Redgum Lerp Psyllid (*Glycapsis brimblecombei*), an introduced Homopteran heavily impacting *Eucalyptus* trees, provided abundant food for migrant and wintering wood-warblers. It occurred in many groves where vagrant warblers were found.

A male Blue-winged Warbler on Point Loma in San Diego 1 Oct (JW) was one of a few reported in California. Tennessee Warblers appeared to be scarcer than normal, with only 17 found along the coast 15 Sep–1 Nov and one inland at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, 10 Sep (JLD). Seven Lucy's Warblers were found along the coast 15 Aug–6 Nov, including *San Luis Obispo*'s fifth in Arroyo Grande 29 Sep (BKS). Single birds were inland away from areas of known regular occurrence at G.H.P. 3–18 Sep (MTH) and 1–3 Oct (MTH). Five N. Parulas along the coast 11 Sep–13 Nov, with two more inland 24–26 Sep, was about average. Sixteen Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast after 18 Sep, with two in *Orange* still present at the end of November, were a little more than normal; nine in e. *Kern* 4 Sep–14 Oct was unprecedented. Thirty Magnolia Warblers was also more than expected, with 20 along the coast after 28 Sep (one in *San Diego* was still present at the end of the period) and ten more in *Inyo*, e. *Kern*, and *San Bernardino* 21 Sep–22 Oct. A Cape May Warbler in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, 22 Sep (BAB) was the only one reported; this species reaches California in far fewer numbers since control of the Spruce Budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) in boreal forests depleted their principal food supply. Seven Black-throated Blue Warblers along the coast 18 Sep–17 Oct, along with single birds at I.M.P.P. 6 Oct (MSanM) and Desert Center 17 Oct (MAP), were fewer than expected, especially so at desert oases in the e. part of the Region. Five Black-throated Green Warblers in *San Luis Obispo* and *Santa Barbara* 23 Oct–12 Nov (BAB, BKS, BKH, GBW) were fall vagrants, but one in National City, *San Diego*, 3 Nov+ (DWA) and another near Oceanside, *San Diego*, 25 Nov+ (PAG) were both birds returning for their fourth winters. Eight Blackburnian Warblers along the coast 18 Sep–24 Oct was about normal, but one at G.H.P. 11–12 Sep (MTH) was one of a few found in the e. part of the Region. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Huntington Beach 6 Nov+ (GLT) was only the second to be found in well-worked *Orange* and appeared to be settled for the winter.

The only Pine Warbler was one apparently wintering in Long Beach 25 Nov+ (KSG). Six Prairie Warblers along the coast 18 Sep–31 Oct was a little less than expected. More than 50 Palm Warblers along the coast 28 Sep–28 Nov, and an additional eight at desert oases in the e. part of the Region 26 Sep–15 Oct was about average. A Bay-breasted Warbler was in Ventura 9 Oct (DDJ) and individuals were inland at G.H.P. 21 Sep (MTH) and F.C.R. 21–29 Nov (TEW); like the Cape May Warbler, numbers reaching California are greatly reduced due to the depletion of the Spruce Budworm on the breeding grounds. Blackpoll Warblers were scarcer than expected, with only 22 along the coast, and four more in e. *Kern* 11 Sep–7 Nov. About 35 Black-and-white Warblers and nearly 60 American Redstarts scattered throughout the Region illustrates the relative abundance of these two species in s. California during fall migration. Seven Prothonotary Warblers along the coast 12 Sep–31 Oct, along with three more in *Inyo* and e. *Kern* during the same period, was above average. The only Worm-eating Warbler, in Huntington Beach 16 Oct+ (DRW), appeared to be wintering. Three Ovenbirds along the coast, all in *San Diego* 26 Sep–6 Oct (EC, GMcC, JW), was far fewer than expected, but three in e. *Kern* during the same period (SBT, MTH, JCW) was considered better than average. Thirty-five N. Waterthrushes scattered throughout the Region, with most in September, was an expected number. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Panamint Springs 24–25 Sep (GHR, SBT) was the second to be found in *Inyo* and one of few in California. A Kentucky Warbler near Gaviota, *Santa Barbara*, 2 Oct (KLW) and another in Carlsbad, *San Diego*, 24 Oct (RR) were the only two found this fall. A Connecticut Warbler in Ridgecrest 7 Sep (JSe) will establish the first fall record for *Kern* if accepted by the CBRC. A Mourning Warbler was well documented at California City 25 Sep (SBT, JLD). Single Hooded Warblers were at Death Valley Junction, *Inyo*, 4 Sep (MJSanM) and in Desert Center 7 Nov (CMcG). Canada Warblers near Lompoc 16 Oct (DCom), near Port Hueneme 16–19 Oct (WW), and on Pt. Loma 12 Oct (DWA) were the only reported. A Painted Redstart on Pt. Loma 16–20 Oct (MG) was a lost migrant; another in El Centro 31 Oct+ (GMcC) was to attempting to winter.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only Hepatic Tanager reported was on the immediate coast at Point Loma 19 Oct (REW), where unexpected. As expected, a few Summer Tanagers wandered w., with ±20 reported throughout the Region, mostly along the coast mid-Sep to mid-Nov. Single Scarlet Tanagers were along the coast in El Capitan S.B., *Santa Barbara*, 22–25 Oct (KB) and Irvine 24 Oct (LO), and inland in the Saline Valley 17 Nov (REM) and at G.H.P. 18 Oct (MTH).

An Am. Tree Sparrow at F.C.R. 4 Nov (MJSanM) was in an area where one or two

are found at this time every year, but one photographed at Desert Center 17 Oct (MAP) and another on Point Loma in San Diego 4–5 Nov (JW) were far to the south of the species' normal range. Twenty Clay-colored Sparrows scattered throughout the Region 12 Sep–25 Nov were fewer than expected. Since Black-throated Sparrows are rare on the immediate coast, six on the coast of *Santa Barbara*, *Ventura*, and *Orange* between 9 Sep and 7 Oct is noteworthy. The only Lark Buntings reported were one near Victorville, *San Bernardino* 17 Oct (BD), two together in Santa Clarita, *Los Angeles*, 16 Sep (FH), and one on the coast in Goleta 19 Sep (JEL). Grasshopper Sparrows, far from areas of normal occurrence at F.C.R. 5 Oct (T&JH) and in the Saline Valley 10 Nov (REM), were obvious migrants. A **Le Conte's Sparrow,** a casual straggler to California, was at F.C.R. 3 Oct (TEW). Up to two Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Seal Beach 24 Oct+ (JF) were on winter territories. Thirty-five Swamp Sparrows scattered throughout the Region were fewer than usual. An early White-throated Sparrow in Santa Barbara 7 Sep (PB), followed by at least 40 more scattered throughout the Region, was close to an average number, but four Harris's Sparrows in *Inyo* in Oct and Nov was below average. The only McCown's Longspurs were two at E.A.F.B. 20– 25 Oct (MTH), two near Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, 27 Nov+ (TEW), one in e. *San Luis Obispo* 28–29 Nov (BKS), and another near Port Hueneme 30 Oct–2 Nov (DDJ). About 30 Lapland Longspurs and at least 50 Chestnut-collared Longspur were found scattered throughout the Region between mid-October and the end of November as expected.

A male N. Cardinal near Tecopa, *Inyo*, 27 Nov+ (ST), evidently present since June (*fide* T&JH), may have been a genuine vagrant from w. Arizona. Totals of 20 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks mid-Sep and mid-Nov and ±25 Indigo Buntings mid-Aug to mid-Nov were both lower than expected. Imm. Painted Buntings were along the coast in Goleta 31 Aug–1 Sep (GT) and Huntington Beach 15–19 Sep (JEP), and inland at F.C.R. 16–23 Oct (T&JH, TEW), G.H.P. 11–12 Sep (MTH), and Morongo Valley 7 Sep (JLD). Only five Dickcissels were reported, inland in Bishop, *Inyo*, 31 Oct–1 Nov (J&DP), F.C.R. 24–25 Sep (WW) and 8–9 Oct (MSanM) and at G.H.P. 1 Oct (MTH), and on the coast on Pt. Loma 30 Sep (REW). At least 55 Bobolinks were found along the coast 8 Sep–2 Nov; an additional 13 were in *Inyo* and e. *Kern* during the same period, as appears normal. The only Orchard Orioles were two in Santa Barbara 31 Oct (GB), one in nearby Carpinteria 16–17 Sep (LRB), and one inland at G.H.P. 4 Sep (JCW). Eleven Baltimore Orioles were reported from along the coast, with at least five of these appearing to be wintering, as is normal. A Red Crossbill in the Saline Valley 5 Nov (REM) and five more in Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, 6 Sep (BD), along with an Evening Grosbeak far s. of its normal range in El Cajon, *San Diego*, 16-17 Oct (JG), were obviously on the move, but were the only finches reported out of range.

CORRIGENDA

The date of Prothonotary Warbler reported in California City in spring 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:331) should be changed from 8 May to 8 June.

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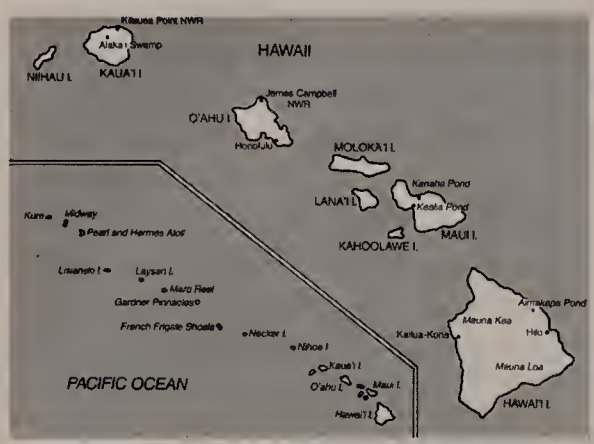

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Dry conditions persisting for many seasons were eased a bit by fall showers in some areas, but Kaua'i, west Moloka'i, and up-country Maui remained very dry. Tropical storms *Dora* and *Eugene* passed well south of Hawaii in August and no other hurricanes approached the islands this year. Johnston I. was evacuated as *Dora* threatened to come close, but no damage to property or wildlife occurred.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. *(French Frigate Shoals);* H. *(Hawai'i I.);* K. *(Kaua'i I.);* M. *(Maui I.);* O. *(O'ahu I.);* W.T.P. *(Water Treatment Ponds).*

ALBATROSSES THROUGH DUCKS

The female Short-tailed Albatross *(Endangered)* returned again 28 Oct to her favorite spot on Sand I., Midway, (HA) as she has done the past dozen years. A fully adult-plumaged male returned in early Nov to a spot 300 meters up the runway from the female. The two did not approach or interact with each other. Taking a management action 19 Nov, staff of Midway Atoll N.W.R. moved the male to a spot several meters from the female (NH). Soon the two approached and performed some mild posturing and dancing, after which the female flew out to sea and the male returned to his favored spot. Daily observations have not shown further interaction. Both birds were banded as chicks 12 (male) and 18 (female) years ago at the research colony on Torishima I. s. of Japan. These two, and a third one on nearby Eastern I., totaled three Short-taileds recorded on the Christmas Bird Count in late Dec.

Two active Wedge-tailed Shearwater nesting burrows discovered 26 Sep on a coastal dune in the isolated nw. corner of Moloka'i I. were the first known nestings of seabirds on The Nature Conservancy's long standing Mo'omomi Preserve (AD). An astounding 200 chicks hatched this year in the relatively new Wedge-tailed breeding colony on Kaena Pt. Natural Area Reserve at the nw. corner of O'ahu. (BB). Intensive predator control continues at both sites. Six hundred Great Frigatebirds were marked with numbered yellow patagial tags (Don Dearborn) over the past two years in the breeding colony at Tern I., F.F.S. One was recovered in the Philippines, eight were sighted at Wake I., 30+ at Johnston I., and numerous others in the nw. Hawaiian Is., suggesting that they range farther from breeding colonies than was suspected. Perhaps other frigatebird species do so as well. A male **Lesser Frigatebird** was well seen 19 Aug at Sand I., Midway, where one was seen sporadically last spring (AE, notes, sketch). One or two were seen continuously through fall at Tern I., F.F.S. (USFWS).

Numbers of migrant ducks wintering in Hawaii have been well down in recent years and were meager through most of fall this year until late Nov. At Kealia Pond, M., where counts are highest, Northern Pintails climbed to 60 and Northern Shovelers to 245 on 23 Nov (MN). Similar increases were noted at this time at one or two other important waterfowl sites in the state. A female Tufted Duck and a probable second one were identified in a group of six *Aythya* ducks observed briefly in the water treatment basins on Sand I., Midway, 19 Nov (DK). The most exciting bird of the season was an eclipse-male **Harlequin Duck** in mid-Nov in the tugboat harbor at Sand I., Midway (DK, LC). It remained mostly behind pilings and seawalls, where driven to escape constant harassment by Com. White-Terns. It was found moribund in late Nov during a severe storm (RS).

QUAILS THROUGH DOWITCHERS

A covey of 16 Gambel's Quail was observed well 31 Oct along the Saddle Road on Hawai'i I., at the entrance to Pohakuloa military facility (RPa, DP et al). This site is not far from the Keanakolu Rd. area where single birds have been reported occasionally in recent years. Otherwise this quail occurs in Hawaii only as small populations on uninhabited Kaho'olawe and possibly still on Lana'i. A bird described and identified as an Am. Coot was at Aimakapa Pond, H., 30 Oct (DP). Post-breeding counts of Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts (*Endangered*) were encouragingly high. At Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., a peak fall count of 586 was reached 5 Nov (MN). Counts of 100+ on 4 Sep and 90 on 16 Oct at Kuilima W.T.P., O., (MO) were high for that site. The colony at Nu'upia Ponds, O., had 106 adults and 21 fledglings 18 Aug, indicating good recruitment (MR). At Kaelepulu Pond in nearby Kailua, 24 adults and 13 chicks were encouraging (MR). At Kaunakakai W.T.P., Moloka'i, 55+ were counted 12 Oct (AD).

Migrant Bristle-thighed Curlews, uncommon in the Main Hawaiian Is., reached high counts of 10 to 12 during fall at Ki'i Pond N.W.R., O., and adjacent dunes and remained near that level well into winter (MS, PD, MO et al.). From one to four Pectoral Sandpipers, a regular visitor in small numbers, were reported widely on at least four islands. Six Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., 25 Oct (DP), and one to two were reported elsewhere, a relatively lean year. Sightings of Ruffs, an unusual species in Hawaii, came from Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., 1 Oct (AE);

SA Wandering Tattlers are common visitors to Hawaii in fall and winter but a color-banded tattler observed in a pond in Hilo 28 Aug was something special. It was banded by Bob Gill in a study project at a lake 250 km ssw. of Anchorage, AK, 17 July 1999. When banded it was with its brood of two chicks, but later departed in time to be discovered in Hilo 42 days later. It was found again 18 Sep and 4 Nov at Waialea Pond in Hilo (TP). As if that were not enough, another color-banded Wandering Tattler was discovered in mid-Sep across the island at Kona Village resort n. of Kailua-Kona (AD, good photo showing bands). This bird, with a different color combination, had been banded 24 May in the same Alaska project at a different lake. Other than the well-known Pacific Golden-Plover project and an occasional Bristle-thighed Curlew banded initially at Laysan, no one here can recall previous records of banded shorebirds from the Arctic showing up in Hawaii.

Honouliuli unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., 10 Oct (PD); in taro fields at Haleiwa, O., 22 Oct (MO); Amorient aquafarm adjacent to Ki'I Ponds, O., 24 Oct (DP); and at Ki'i Ponds unit, James Campbell N.W.R., O., 27 Nov (MO). The steady northward progression with time suggests that some or all sightings perhaps involved the same bird. A Ruff was also sighted at Sand I. 6 Sep (USFWS). Scarcer species reported this season include a (North American) Whimbrel regularly with Bristle-thighed Curlews at Ki'i Ponds unit, O.; a Red Knot (rare in Hawaii) at Kealia Pond N.W.R., M. 25 Oct (DP); a juv. female Western Sandpiper at Kealia Pond 1 Oct (AE); a probable Rufous-necked Stint at Cyanotech Ponds. H. 23 Aug (AE); and a Short-billed Dowitcher at Honouliuli unit 11 Sep (PD) and at Ki'i Ponds unit 5 Oct and Waiawa unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., 7 Oct, (both *fide* MS).

TERNS THROUGH JAVA SPARROW

At Sand I., Midway the second Little Tern nest reported in July also failed. Three Leasts and two Littles were still there 21 Aug (AE) but became difficult to distinguish by plumage. A juv. Com. Tern was at Kona W.T.P. 30 Nov (KU) and a Great Crested Tern was reported at Tern I., F.F.S. 11 Aug (USFWS). Both species are rarely seen in Hawaii. Two Mourning Doves were observed at Nu'u Pond near Kaupo, M., 21 Aug and two were at the Mokulele Hwy. entrance to Kealia Pond N.W.R., M., 4 and 7 Sep (FD, RD). One was found later at Kealia Pond N.W.R. 19 Oct (LT). These sightings follow two earlier isolated sightings on Maui as the only records away from the small population established for many decades in coastal sections of nw. Hawai'i I. A Hawaiian (Short-eared) Owl was observed well several times through the fall at Ki'i Ponds unit of James Campbell N.W.R. (MO), one of few localities on O'ahu where this species is still occasionally reported. Two tour groups had close observations for up to an hour or two of the three adult 'Alala (Hawaiian Crow) still known in the wild at McCandless Ranch near Captain Cook, H., 2 Nov (DP) and late Nov (DK). Wild birds were attracted to a large outdoor aviary containing two captive-raised young awaiting release.

Saffron Finches are still doing well on O'ahu, particularly in the Salt L. and Pearl City areas. One was seen and another heard at Leeward Community College. sw. of Pearl City 13 Nov (SM). A good collection of alien finches and estrildids were coming to pools at a country club near Pu'uanahulu, H., 30 Oct, including Saffron Finches, Yellow-fronted Canaries, Red Avadavats, Warbling Silverbills, Nutmeg Mannikins, one Black-rumped Waxbill, and one Red-cheeked Cordonbleu heard (DP). Java Sparrows were observed again on Waimea Canyon Rd. just above Waimea, K., 15 Jul (DK).

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west indies

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Another dread hurricane season pressed through the Region, with a record number of intense storms. Hurricane *Floyd* raced toward the northern Lesser Antilles in Sep producing some interesting seabird reports for Barbados; i.e. Red-footed Booby, jaegers, Bridled Terns, and noddies, all rarely seen from land. Hurricane *Gert* washed over nesting islands of Bermuda's endangered gadfly petrel, the Cahow, for the second time in four years. The damage was not as bad as last time, when 40% of nest sites were affected. Repair and preventative maintenance reduced losses this time. Hurricane *Irene* sliced through the northern Bahamas at Abaco causing severe damage in September. *Lenny*, a Category 4, made an unprecedented mid-Nov run from the western Caribbean Sea to the northeast Lesser Antilles, with winds of 150 mph and a 15- to 20-foot storm surge. *Lenny* stalled as it approached St. Maartin, leaving 25 to 30 in. of rain. The tiny limestone rock and seabird nesting site at Sombrero in the middle of the Anegada Passage no doubt suffered near wash-over conditions. This islet was the proposed site of a joint US-UK satellite launching facility; with projections for an increase in hurricane activity and intensity in the next decade (Gray), *Lenny* may just be a prelude to the folly planned for Sombrero. *La Niña* conditions continue to provide outstanding landbird records in the northern islands, with sparrows and warblers in higher numbers and more widespread. An unusual shift in migratory patterns produced two extralimital kite species records, one new for the hemisphere.

Abbreviations: Ba *(Bahamas);* Bd *(Barbados);* Be *(Bermuda);* Cu *(Cuba);* Do *(Dominica);* Gu *(Guadeloupe);* Ha *(Haiti);* RNC *(Rand Nature Center, Grand Bahama, Ba);* StJ *(St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands);* StL *(St. Lucia).*

GREBES THROUGH TERNS

An Eared Grebe, the second record for Be, was at Spittal Pond 7 Nov (*fide* AD). Least Grebes numbered 10+, including young of the year at Grand Bahama, Ba, 6–12 Oct (TW et al.). Cahows returned to nesting burrows mid-Oct, but faced a major challenge with over-washing seas and erosion to nesting islands by hurricane *Gert* (DW). A juv. **Gray Heron** was observed 10 Oct at North Point, St. Lucy, Bd, (MF, EM) and a second-year bird was moving between Graeme Hall Swamp and Chancery Lane, Christ Church (EM, MF, MG). Has breeding been confirmed for this species yet? An apparently non-breeding **Little Egret** stopped briefly at Club Fortuna Beach, Grand Bahama, during the passage of hur-

ricane *Dennis* 28 Aug (CS); good details eliminated Snowy Egret. From Puerto Rico comes a report in late Sep of **Western Reef-Heron** from the mouth of the Arecibo R., where there may be second bird (JJP *fide* MO). It would appear that hurricanes are facilitating fall dispersal of Barbados' breeding herons, identified by their extraordinary variety and proclivity for wandering. The venerable White Ibis extended its stay on Be through Oct, and a Glossy Ibis flew over 7 Oct at Camden Marsh, Be, (*fide* AD). Ninety Greater Flamingoes were counted at Etang Saumatre, e.n.e. of Port-au-Prince, Ha, 14 Nov (JC), suggesting groups are moving around seeking feeding areas. Crouse found flamingoes feeding in the Artibonite Valley, a first during his tenure in Ha. Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were noted at Coles, St. Phillip, Bd, 16–17 Aug (MF). An imm. Tundra Swan made a showing 18–21 Nov at Spittal Pond, one of few Be records (*fide* AD). Among a migratory group of Osprey, two **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen (JC, JA, IP) 28 Aug above Gonaives Bay, Ha, providing the first for the Greater Antilles east of Cu and Eleuthera, Ba. A **Black Kite** was in the British Virgin Is. mid-Oct (FS et al.). Details are expected elsewhere for this first Regional and possibly hemispheric record, though it has reached Hawaii. Two Com. Black-Hawks were at Vermont, StV, (FF, BW) 11 Nov in upland habitat, unlike the Cuban population's preference for coastal islands and lagoons.

A Whimbrel was on mudflats at Gonaives, Ha, 28 Aug (JC et al). A **Curlew Sandpiper,** Be's sixth, was noted 17 Sep at Mid-Ocean Golf Club (AD) and eventually relocated with a second, the first Regional record of multiple individuals. Another rarity, possibly from across the Atlantic, was a Ruff seen in early Sep and again 26 Sep. A rarity from the American continent was an Am. Woodcock 28 Oct at Southampton, Be (PW). An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was seen from Oistins, Christ Church, Bd, 19 Sep, a rare occurrence from land (EM, CM). A Pomarine Jaeger was noted (AK, GK) on Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov. A Lesser Black-backed Gull 4 Sep provided the earliest fall arrival for Be. A juv. Gull-billed Tern was noted at Sandy Point, Abaco, 15 Oct (WB), and a Sandwich Tern was noted at Oistins, Christ Church, Bd, 21 Sep (MG).

PARROTS THROUGH FINCHES

Frazier and Weiss pulled off a five-day psittacine quinella, with endemic Red-necked (5+) and Imperial Parrots (2) at Syndicate, Do, 6 Nov (FF, BW), two St. Lucia Parrots at Edmond Forest, StL, 9 Nov, and 10+ St. Vincent Parrots 11 Nov near the Vermont Trail. Infrequently reported is the St. Lucia (Rufous) Nightjar, whence FF and BW found one on the west coast of StL 9 Nov. The population is curiously closely associated with the distribution of Fer-de-lance *Bothrops caribbaeus,* a deadly pit viper. Fourteen Chimney Swifts made a big show at Jenningsland and N. Shore, Be 23 Oct (*fide* AD) and three "bombed over heads" of BH et al. 17 Oct at Treasure Cay, Abaco. Among a plethora of unidentified *Chaetura* swifts at Bd, apparently associated with strong southerly flow from storm *Jose* in late Oct, was one positively identified Chimney Swift 30 Oct. There was speculation that another may have been a Short-tailed Swift (MF, FH). A pair of endemic Guadeloupe Woodpeckers was noted (FF, BW) 4 Nov near Vernon, Gu.

An E. Wood-Pewee (TW et al.) was one of the few Regional records. Increasing numbers of migrant flycatcher records from Ba in recent years perhaps represents increased coverage. Two Acadian Flycatchers were banded at RNC 8–11Oct (B&WB, *fide* BH). An E. Kingbird was at Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov (AK, GK). A Giant Kingbird 30 Oct at Hacienda La Vega, w. of Trinidad, Cu, (AK, GK) was apparently the first for Sancti Spiritus Provence in several decades (*fide* AK). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Coles, Bd, 24 Aug (MF) provided one of few records from the Antilles.

A **Northern Shrike** 28 Nov (DW) at Great Head Park, Be, was a remarkable occurrence for the latitude, let alone location. **Bank Swallows** joined migrating Barn Swallows 6 Nov in lower mountains of Do (FF, BW), one of few reports from the Lesser Antilles. An octet of mostly imm. **Common House-Martins** at Harrison Point, Bd, 30–31 Oct (MF, EM) provided the first record for the West Indies. At least two lingered to 6 Nov. Photographs were provided to various knowledgeable observers for critical review; details are expected elsewhere. The only other Atlantic New World record is from Be 9 Aug 1957 (DW). Three Brown-headed Nuthatches were at the Emlen Tract, Grand Bahama, during Oct (WB, TW et al.). This species is of special concern in Ba, where the population has fluctuated during the last few decades.

Swainson's Thrushes were at RNC, GB, (BH) 18 Oct and Havana, Cu, 25 Oct (AK, GK); a Gray-checked Thrush was at the former the same day. White et al. recorded a Veery at Grand Bahama 8 Oct, one of few Regional reports; one was also banded at Rand Nature Center (*fide* WB). Threatened by loss of habitat, a species of special concern is the Forest Thrush, reported recently near Vernon, Gu, 4 Nov (FF). Two or three White-breasted Thrashers, a critically threatened two-island endemic, were noted at Caravelle Peninsula, Martinique. It has been some time since that population has been reported, since St. Lucia has been surveying and monitoring its population closely. At StL, FF and BW found a Gray Trembler, recently sorted out of that island's confusing population of brown and gray forms that mirror endemism of the thrasher.

Bainton, the Braceys, Hallett, and White recorded 28 warbler species on Grand Bahama 6–13 Oct. Among them were a Bay-breasted, four (!) Swainson's, and a late Louisiana Waterthrush. Two Blackburnian Warblers were late at Be (SD) 28 Nov. A **Kirtland's Warbler** was near Hole-in-the-wall, s. Abaco, Ba, 28 Oct (PD, EC, *fide* WB). A female Am. Redstart at Gonaives, Ha, 1 Aug (JC) was early. A Prothonotary Warbler was at Cayo Paredon Grande, Cu, 1 Nov (AK, GK). Wilson's and Kentucky Warblers were noted at Havana 25 Oct and Playa Hiron, Cu, 26 Oct, respectively (AK, GK). *Three* Wilson's were noted at Grand Bahama 6–9 Oct (TW et al.). Also at Cayo Paredon Grande 1 Nov was a Scarlet Tanager (AK, GK). An imm. Dickcissel at Bahama Bay Club, GB, was a great find 9 Oct (TW et al.).

Three Clay-colored Sparrows 6–7 Oct and 19 Oct at Grand Bahama were good finds (TW et al.) for Ba. Within a week, two notable sparrows surfaced at Be, a Clay-colored at Hog Bay Park 2 Oct and a Lark Sparrow at Southside, Be 25 Sep (PW), providing a fourth island record. On Little Abaco, Ba, a **Lark Sparrow** 6 Sep (TD) was the first for that location (*fide* TW). Another good sparrow was a Lincoln's 19 Oct at Bahama Bay Club, Grand Bahama. A possible female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Grand Bahama (TW et al.) 12 Oct, one of few for northern Ba. Not only were two Shiny Cowbirds at Grand Bahama 8 Oct, but the specter of an ad. male **Brown-headed Cowbird** there 12 Oct does not bode well for endemics. One of few Regional reports, an **Orchard Oriole** was at Cayo Paredon Grande 1 Nov (AK, GK). Three Baltimore Orioles were at Grand Bahama 6–12 Oct (TW et al.). One was at Montrouis nw. of Port-au-Prince 11 Nov, one of few reports from Ha (JC). One of the most remarkable records of the fall was a

Pine Grosbeak at Ft. Scaur 14 Nov (J&LM), only the fifth for Be and first in 22 years. Perhaps another harbinger were 35 Com. Redpolls 11 Nov at Cooper's Island, Be.

ADDENDUM

Two Least Grebes in breeding plumage were at Caneel Bay, StJ, 18 Apr (RR); breeding there would reprise a 40-year hiatus. Row also reported two **Double-crested Cormorants** off Cruz Bay, StJ, mid-Apr, perhaps only the third record there. Also at Caneel Bay were several ad. and one–two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons (RR); breeding at St.J would be a terrific record. EM found a male Hook-billed Kite near Mt. Hartman, Grenada, in Jul. A Dunlin in the Dominican Republic Apr 1996 predates the most recent report (GK). Six Fork-tailed Flycathers were near the Grenada airport in Jul (EM). A Blue-winged Warbler was at Palpite, Zapata, Cu, 15 Feb (GK). Am. (Caribbean) Coots nested for the first time in a century at East Point, St. Philip, Bd 4 Jul, with 3 hatchlings 25 Jul (MF). A Pearly-eyed Thrasher 14 Jun (DA et al.) provided the 3rd record for Bd (*fide* MF). Check Trinidad and Tobago's Field Naturalist Club website (http://www.wow.net/ttfnc) for details too long to condense herein.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

William B. Robertson Jr.

August 22, 1924–January 28, 2000

The brief, dust-jacket biography of the co-author of "Florida Bird Species: An Annotated List" (1992, *Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication* no. 6) reads:

> William B. Robertson, Jr. began studying landbird populations in southern Florida and the northern Bahamas in 1950 for his Ph.D. research, and received a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1955. Soon afterwards, he was employed as a research biologist in Everglades National Park. . . . In 1976 he was awarded the United States Department of Interior Medal for Distinguished Service and today he is Senior Scientist at the South Florida Research Center. A Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, he has published more than 100 articles on the Everglades ecosystem and on the birds of Florida and the West Indies. Besides his reputation as the dean of Florida ornithologists, and his service as first president of the Florida Ornithological Society, Robertson is best known for his studies of the seabirds of Florida's Dry Tortugas.

Yet, readers today of *North American Birds* know little of his influence on the antecedent journals, *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds*, the ecology of the Everglades, and other things global. After Dr. Bill, as he was affectionately known, signed on with the National Park Service, he was assigned the duty of surveying the birdlife of St. John in the United States Virgin Islands, the newest member of the National Parks in March 1956. The result was the first manuscript devoted to avian biogeography of the Virgin Islands since

Nichols' in 1943. Bill would remain at Everglades National Park as the Service's only scientist east of the Mississippi for nearly a decade. His ensconcement there, a testimony to his knowledge, skills and ability, provided a unique opportunity to witness the ecological interface of three major biomes.

Dr. Bill's ornithological analysis in the Florida regional reports, Christmas Bird Counts, and Changing Seasons in *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* from 1949 intermittently through 1984 established his continental "field of view." Although his command of ornithogeography reached hemispheric proportions, Dr. Bill's primary focus was the ecological health, welfare, and safety of Florida's Everglades. After researching and studying the natural effects and cultural uses of fire in south Florida by 1953, Bill concluded that to save pinelands and hammocks of the Park, he would have to burn them. "Fire" was a true four-letter word in national parks and forests in those days. The resultant change in philosophy, practice, and value of fire as an ephemeral consumer in ecological systems is utilized now around the world. Dr. Bill's ecosystem management reached global proportions.

In the evolution of *North American Birds,* Bill's influence and mentorship cannot be overlooked. Apart from his many contributions to Everglades CBCs, Changing Seasons, and Florida regional reports, his "Observations on the birds of St. John, Virgin Islands" (*Auk* 79:44-76, 1962) was the nexus of the West Indies regional report inaugurated in 1979, an offspring of my master's work on birds of St. John. The late Bob Arbib and Susan Drennan, each editors of *American Birds,* did not hesitate to widen the scope of the journal geographically, to watch the lives of birds that spend upwards of three-fourths of their life history exiled annually from breeding grounds. For the past 20 years, international readership of the West Indies regional report which has cited observations from most inhabited, and some uninhabited, islands in the Caribbean has benefited from Bill's original study on St. John. Indeed, the readership itself *is* the West Indies report, as every other regional editor must also proclaim allegiance.

Bill's interest in West Indian species was largely centered on life histories of seabirds, such as the Sooty Terns at the Dry Tortugas, Florida. Although geographically and politically aligned with Florida and the United States, these small islands are West Indian in character—they afforded Bill his Caribbean connection and retreat. In spring and early summer, Bill had his annual recalibration with the birds, the islands, and the cosmos. His work with Sooty Terns is a model for longitudinal bird research. He, his late wife Betty, and many volunteers banded about one-half million Sooty Terns. In one of Bill's publications he astounded seabird biologists by discovering that juvenile Sooty Terns from the Tortugas trek to the Gulf of Guinea off West Africa!

During my tenure with the Virgin Islands government as a biologist studying seabirds, I had occasion to recover Sooty Terns at Saba Cay off St. Thomas during our own long-term banding and life-history studies. We found birds in the colony that we did not know. They were birds from the Dry Tortugas. After consulting with Bill on my thesis work, we were now communicating on a different level. We eventually presented a joint paper with Horace Jeter from Mississippi and Orlando Garrido from Cuba on recruitment of Sooty Terns throughout the Gulf/Caribbean Basin. When Bill visited me in St. John in 1989, the West Indies regional report had 10 years under its belt, a Virgin Islands Audubon Society had been chartered, and five Christmas Bird Counts were solvent on four Virgin Islands: St. Croix (2), St. John, St. Thomas, and Tortola (British Virgin Islands). All this and much more was an over-arching response to Bill's work in the Virgin Islands 43 years earlier. Many of these developments and accomplishments eventually would have come to pass, but without Bill's scholarship, creativity, and mentoring they might not have occurred so soon.

In 1993, Bill wrote in my copy of "Florida Bird Species" that "This book is for Rob Norton who also believes that there can never be too many Caribbean islands," a simple and profound attestation of Bill's comprehension of people, places, and systems. Bill once said that anyone who had come in contact with the Everglades could not be unaffected by the experience. I venture to say that the same will be said of one of its greatest champions. A phrase from his "Everglades: The Park Story" best sums up my tribute: "*In ways not simple to explain, American lives are richer because there is still room in the land for crocodiles to build their . . . nests . . . and for deer to browse . . ., with perhaps a panther to stalk them.*" In ways not simple to explain, American lives are richer because there was a Bill Robertson.

—Robert L. Norton

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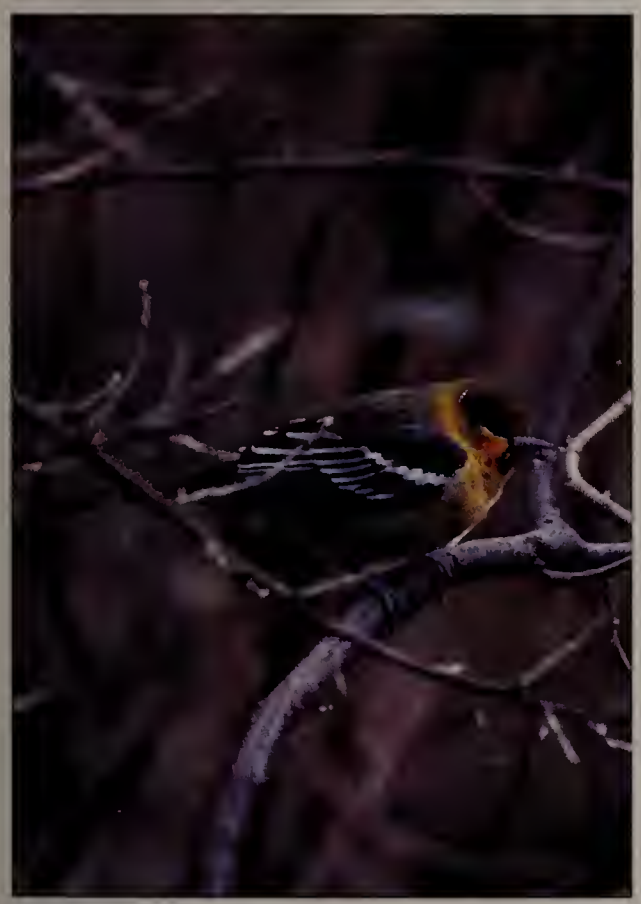
Fall Migration

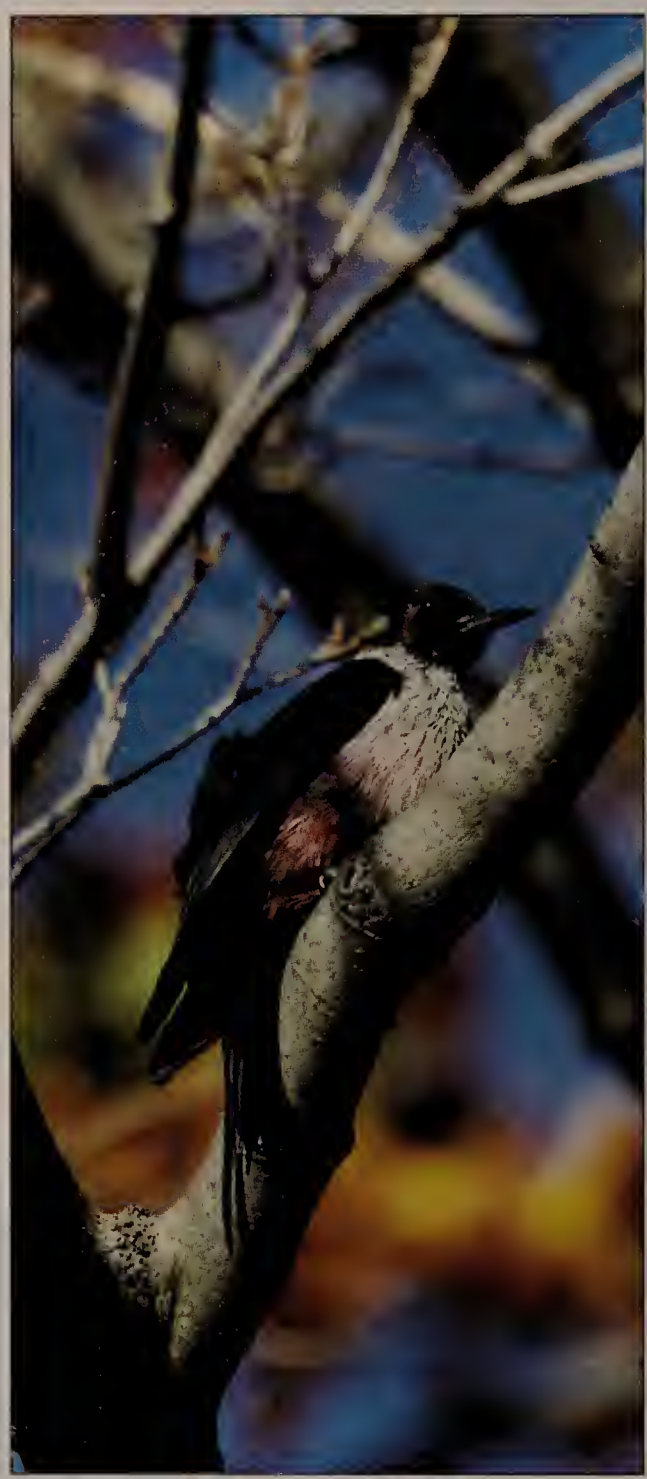
pictorial highlights

Given its gaudy plumage and the paucity of North American records, the appearance of a Northern Lapwing on this continent always creates a stir. This juvenile (note the buff fringes to the coverts and scapulars) was captured on film the last day of its three day visit to Cape Spear, Newfoundland, 17–19 Nov 1999. Photograph/ Bruce Mactavish



Flaunting the trappings of youth was this immature male Bullock's Oriole that attempted to winter at Stafford Springs, Connecticut. It appeared on 5 Nov 1999, remained well into Dec, and was photographed 8 Nov. Photograph/Mark Szantyr

This brightly-colored immature female Lapland Longspur at Raccoon Ridge, New Jersey, 11 Oct 1999 could easily be passed off as a Smith's Longspur were it not for the golden auriculars and chestnut nape. Photograph/Brian Hardiman



The Lewis's Woodpecker is a rare bird in eastern North America, with most records being of immatures in autumn. By contrast, this striking adult at Brockville, Ontario, 1–7 Oct 1999, and photographed 6 Oct, provided the fourth provincial record. Photograph/Al Boisvert

Two views of a Pink-sided Junco, *J. h. mearnsi*, that remained at Kiptopeke State Park, Virginia, 10 Nov 1999 into Jan 2000, providing one of few documented records for eastern North America. There are numerous sight records, many of which are tentative at best. Of the various identifiable forms of the Dark-eyed Junco, only *J. h. mearnsi* shows the combination of a pale gray head, black lores, warm chestnut-brown mantle, and extensive pinkish flanks, with this color often expanding across the upper breast. Photographs/Robert L. Anderson (upper photo) and James Cameron (lower photo)

Providing only a second record east of the Mississippi River was this remarkable Elegant Tern at Honeymoon Island, Florida, 3 Oct–22 Nov 1999, with this photo taken 8 Oct. Note the long, slender, slightly decurved bill and the extensive black surrounding the eye. Photograph/Bill Pranty

An increasingly encountered visitor to eastern North America, the Rufous Hummingbird now appears annually, although many are immature or females that present identification problems. Not so, however, with this stunning adult male at Eastman, Quebec, from late September to 18 Dec 1999. This image was taken 6 Nov 1999. Photograph/Michèle Lafleur

Their march northward through central Tennessee is now complete as this Brown-headed Nuthatch below Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 26 Sep–12 Oct 1999 provided a first for Kentucky. Photograph/ Brainard Palmer-Ball

Despite roughly 15 sight reports for Florida, this remarkable Kirtland's Warbler at New Smyrma Dunes Park, *Volusia*, 17 Oct 1999 provided only the second verified record for the state, the first being an 1896 specimen. Photograph/ Kurt A. Radamaker

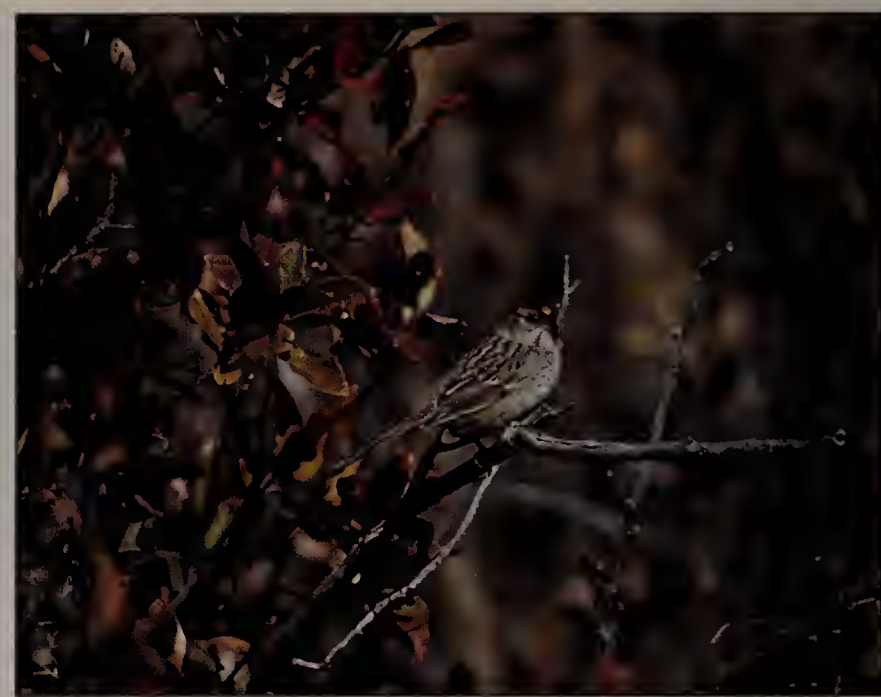
Continuing a trend of extralimital records in the north and east was a family group of two adult (pictured here 22 Oct) and eight immature Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Lake Marinuka, Galesville, Wisconsin, 10–27 Oct 1999, providing the third state record. Photograph/Fred Lesher

Rare so far north was this juvenile Purple Gallinule at Presque Isle State Park, *Erie*, Pennsylvania, 14–16 Oct 1999, with the photo taken on the first date. Photograph/ Jerry McWilliams

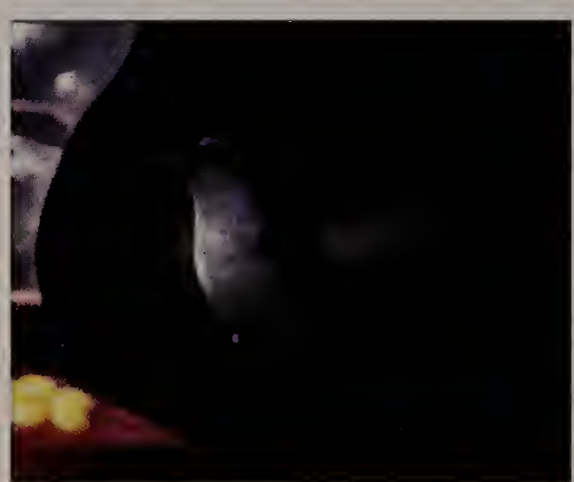
Providing only the second record for Lousiana, this Flammulated Owl was a stunning visitor 11 Oct 1999 to an oil platform 120 km south of Terrebonne Parish. Amazingly, another reached the Gulf of Mexico the previous day on an oil platform off *Calhoun*, Texas. Photograph/Marshall Iliff

A surprising vagrant was this Western Scrub-Jay at Tippecanoe City, Indiana, during November 1999. There was but one previous record of this species east of the Mississippi River. The fairly bright gray-blue plumage and white undertail coverts suggests *A. c. suttoni*, the subspecies of the Rocky Mountain region. Photograph/Kyle Arvin

Defying its name was this adult male Summer Tanager dusted with snow at Fort Collins, Colorado, 21–22 Nov 1999 and photographed on the latter date. Photograph/Stephen J. Dinsmore



This immature Golden-crowned Sparrow was a rare sight in Colorado, where this image was taken at Crow Valley Campground, *Weld*, 1 Oct 1999. Photograph/David A. Leatherman



A Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Fairhaven, *Humboldt*, California, 17–23 Sep 1999 provided the northernmost known occurrence of the species and just the fifth record for California. Photograph/Gjon C. Hazard

This Cassin's Sparrow off Kenedy, Texas, 31 Oct 1999 was one of many remarkable and unexpected finds emerging from the on-going Louisiana State University study of avian migration by a team of field ornithologists manning oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.Photograph/Alan Wormington

The Philadelphia Vireo is a regular fall vagrant to California, but fall 1999 produced an amazing eleven records statewide. This immature was photographed on the first day of a two day stay at Galileo Hill Park, *Kern*, 25–26 Sep 1999. Photograph/John C. Wilson

California's first Shy Albatross thrilled observers off Pt. Arena, Mendocino, 24 Aug 1999. Its large size (compared to the adjacent Blackfooted Albatross), mostly white underwings, and blackish "thumb print" at the base of the forewing are visible. The white cape and pale gray head and neck are typical of the nominate subspecies. Photograph/Debra L. Shearwater

pictorial highlights: special supplement

Fall 1999 Birding Highlights in the Bering Sea Region, Alaska

The most unusual species found during autumn 1999 was North America's first Yellow-browed Warbler *(Phylloscopus inornatus)*, present 23–24 September. The bird frequented two of Gambell's three "boneyards," a habitat characterized by disturbed nutrient-rich ground supporting a lush growth of a mint-like vegetation *(Umbelliferae)*, which, by late summer, grows to a height of ±3 dm. In contrast to short tundra vegetation and extensive gravel found elsewhere around Gambell, this boneyard (midden) vegetation acts as a magnet to many passerines—both regular migrants and vagrants—at this time of year. This bird was a small *Phylloscopus*, approximately the same size or barely larger than a kinglet. It is separated from similar species by a combination of blackish-centered tertials with bold whitish edges, moss-green upperparts, distinct upper wingbar, and pale yellow supercilium. Full details were published elsewhere (Lehman 2000). For the past 20 years the Yellow-browed Warbler has been predicted to occur in western Alaska (Balch 1980, Roberson 1988), with a number of people considering it *the* most overdue Asian vagrant. It is a common and widespread species, breeding in Siberia as far northeast as the western Anadyr Basin and wintering in Southeast Asia. That this species had not been found previously in Alaska may be partly the result of limited autumn coverage of islands in the Bering Sea. Some vagrant species are more likely to occur in Alaska during fall than spring, such as the Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler and Little Bunting. Photograph/Paul Lehman

Much of the allure of birding the Bering Sea region of western Alaska derives from wayward Asian vagrants, Alaska specialties, and spectacular seabird concentrations. Most birders visit the well-known destinations of Attu Island (western Aleutian Islands), St. Paul Island (Pribilofs), and Gambell (northwest corner of Saint Lawrence Island) in late spring and early summer, with each site receiving annual coverage from mid-to late May through early June since the mid-1970s. Many first records of Asian strays for North America have been found on these islands during this period. In contrast, coverage of Alaskan outposts during fall has been relatively sparse. A likely reason for this limited coverage is the protracted nature of fall migration compared to the more concentrated, shorter "pulse" in spring. Thus, to be assured of seeing a number of Asian strays during a single visit, a birder typically must make a longer time commitment in autumn. Also, spring vagrant seasons for waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines substantially overlap, but peak south-

Common Ringed Plovers are found almost annually at Gambell in late spring, and the species may breed sparingly on Saint Lawrence Island (Sealy et al. 1971). Two juveniles there during late August 1999 were the first locally for fall. The first bird (left) was seen 20 August, the second (right) 25 August. Aging of these birds as juveniles is based partly on the distinct tan-white edgings to the back and wing-coverts. Their identification as Common Ringed rather than Semipalmated Plovers is based on the slightly longer and thinner bill of even width (the Semipalmated typically shows more thickening toward the base), lack of a pale orbital ring, and the exact pattern of dark through and below the lores. In juvenile Semipalmated Plovers the lower edge of dark facial color typically meets the bill above the gape (allowing for a small wedge of white running from the side of the throat to above the gape), whereas in juvenile Common Ringed the dark color meets the base of the bill at the gape or just slightly below (Mullarney et al. 1999). Call-note differences are the best means of separating the two species in the field. These birds were heard giving notes typical of Common Ringed, most notably a soft, plaintive, whistled *poo-eee*. Photographs/Paul Lehman

During recent years, Mongolian Plovers have been annual fall visitors in small numbers to the Bering Sea region during August and early September. This bird was photographed at Gambell 24 August 1999. It is a juvenile, with pale brown upperparts with fine light edgings and a pale peachy-buff wash across the breast contrasting with a white throat. Photograph/Paul Lehman

bound migration of shorebirds (between July and early September) is largely over before vagrant passerines occur (late August to mid-October), which in turn is earlier than the period for many rare waterfowl. Another factor may be increased difficulty in finding low-density migrants and vagrants in the relatively lush vegetation of early fall relative to the sparse cover characteristic of spring.

There have been only three organized autumn trips to Attu Island (a fourth and "final" trip is scheduled for September 2000). Scheduled tours of St. Paul Island cease after the end of August. And Gambell began to receive limited early autumn birder coverage beginning only in 1991, although there had been limited census work carried out there by ornithologists at that season during the 1950s and 1960s (Fay and Cade 1959, Sealy et al. 1971). In addition several researchers have made sporadic autumn visits to a number of offshore islands, including Attu, Shemya (western Aleutians), Adak (central Aleutians), St. Paul (Pribilofs), Nunivak (eastern Bering Sea), and Middleton (northern Gulf of Alaska). Fall birding in coastal Alaska is still a pioneering effort, with still much to be learned. Despite difficult logistics and high costs, an extended autumn trip provides the potential for the thrill of discovery and may well produce as many or more rarities than a comparable spring visit. Prior early autumn visits to the northern Bering Sea islands during the 1990s produced records of such Asian landbirds as Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Little Bunting, and Common Rosefinch at Gambell, and *Cuculus* cuckoo, Eyebrowed Thrush, and Siberian Accentor at Nunivak Island (see Gibson and Kessel 1992). Nunivak also has older fall records of Middendorff's Grasshopper-

Two views of a *Cuculus* cuckoo present at Gambell 23 August 1999 that was identified at the time as a probable Oriental Cuckoo. Although most previous Alaska records have been of Common Cuckoos, all such birds need to be closely scrutinized. Fall cuckoo records are few, with only two previous Alaska sightings of undifferentiated individuals. In the field it was noted that the Gambell bird's undertail coverts were pale buff (in strong light) or deeper peachy-buff (in shade) and were largely unmarked, with just a few short dark bars. This buff color has been suggested by some—but not all—authors (e.g., Parkes 1990) as being indicative of the Oriental Cuckoo. Underwing pattern is also an important difference between the species, although it is difficult to get satisfactory views of the underwing in the field. Luckily, Tony Leukering obtained several photos of it in flight that show a pattern more typical of the Oriental Cuckoo. Specifically, the Oriental shows clean white foremost lesser coverts to the underwing. The rearmost lesser coverts and the median coverts are partly dark gray, partly distinctly barred. At the center of the underwing there is a broad whitish band, formed by dirty white axillars and greater coverts, that continues along whitish bases of the primaries to the third or fourth outermost primary (Kennerley and Leader 1991, Vasamies 1998). In the Common the lesser coverts on the underwing are usually strongly barred and the band on the underwing is shorter and narrower, reaching only the fifth or sixth outermost primary. In general, the white band contrasts more sharply with the gray secondaries and lesser and median underwing coverts in the Oriental. In sum, the Common Cuckoo shows a more uniform underwing compared to that of the Oriental, which is (partly) darker and with an obvious contrasting pale band across the center. Characters visible in the photo of the perched bird include a pale gray head that contrasted with darker, slate-gray lower back, rump, and uppertail coverts; moderately wide and relatively well-spaced ventral barring, and a single unmarked white feather near the leading or "carpal" edge of the wing. Although Oriental Cuckoos tend to have broader and wider-spaced barring than Commons, there is substantial variation and overlap with this character and a number of others oft-used to identify the species (Cramp and Simmons 1985). The white feather may possibly represent the "marginal coverts at wrist of wing" which are unmarked white in Oriental Cuckoo but are white with black barring in Common Cuckoo (King et al. 1975, Flint et al. 1984). Of the approximately eight previous Alaska records of Oriental Cuckoo, two come from Gambell, in July 1930 and July 1935 (ABA 1996). Photographs/Tony Leukering and Paul Lehman

Vega Gulls, *Larus argentatus vegae*, the distinctive Siberian subspecies of the Herring Gull, occur in large numbers in late summer and early fall at Nome and Gambell, with counts of up to 45 per day at the former and 35 per day at the latter. Sixty were tallied on one day at Gambell in fall 1999, setting a record count (Tobish 2000). This one-year old bird is differs from a typical *L. a. smithsonianus*, the Herring Gull of North America, in its darker scapular markings and more distinctively marked underparts. Photograph/Tony Leukering

Gulls provide one of the most difficult identification challenges, and worn, faded immatures in late summer/early fall make a bad situation worse. This gull was photographed on the Bering Sea coast at Nome 19 August 1999. We identified it as a Slaty-backed Gull. (This bird's flight feathers and coverts appear abnormally pale, as they are clearly worn and faded.) It shows some characters of a bird that is just over one year old, such as the bill pattern, dark ventral region, and dark eye. Note the dark gray appearing on the back and scapulars, typical of second-winter and older Slaty-backeds. The deep pinkish legs are typical of the species, although leg color is variable. The gull in the far rear corner of the photo is a Herring of uncertain subspecies. Slaty-backed Gulls occur in small-to-moderate numbers along the northern Bering Sea coasts. Maximum counts have come from late summer and early fall: as many as 22 individuals (mostly third-year and adult birds) have been seen in a day around Nome in late August. Maximum daily counts at Gambell at this season have been about seven individuals. Photograph/Tony Leukering

Warbler, Siberian Accentor, and multiple Eurasian Bullfinches. The only North American record of the Eurasian Hoopoe comes from the nearby mainland Bering Sea coast at the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in early September 1975 (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Farther south in the Bering Sea, St. Paul Island remains largely unchecked in fall after the beginning of September. Relatively good coverage during the past decade in late July and August has proven to be good for Asian shorebirds and other vagrants, with 1990s records of the Chinese Pond-Heron (Hoyer and Smith 1997) and Eurasian Hobby. Recent brief visits to St. Paul later in fall have produced the Red-flanked Bluetail and good numbers of Bramblings, and there are older fall records of the Baikal Teal and Eurasian Coot (Kessel and Gibson 1978).

Excitement and discovery are not limited to the finding of Asian strays. Apparently a good number of mainland North American breeding species wander west out to the offshore islands in fall. Also, a good understanding of the sizable fall seabird movements through the Bering Sea is still in the fledgling stage. Some autumn totals at Gambell in 1999 included *single*-day counts of 550,000 Short-tailed Shearwaters, 26 Yellow-billed Loons, and 500 Pomarine Jaegers. Autumn visits to western Alaska also provide the opportunity to study and photograph a number of species in plumages not normally seen by many North American birders. Presented here is a selection of such photographs taken in 1999, on my fourth autumn visit to Nome and Gambell, during which I remained at the latter for 45 days between late August and the beginning of October. Many highlights from this trip are summarized in the regional report for Alaska in this issue (see pp. 89–92).

Helpful comments on drafts of the manuscript were provided by Don Cunningham, Jon Dunn, D. D. Gibson, Tony Leukering, and Thede Tobish.

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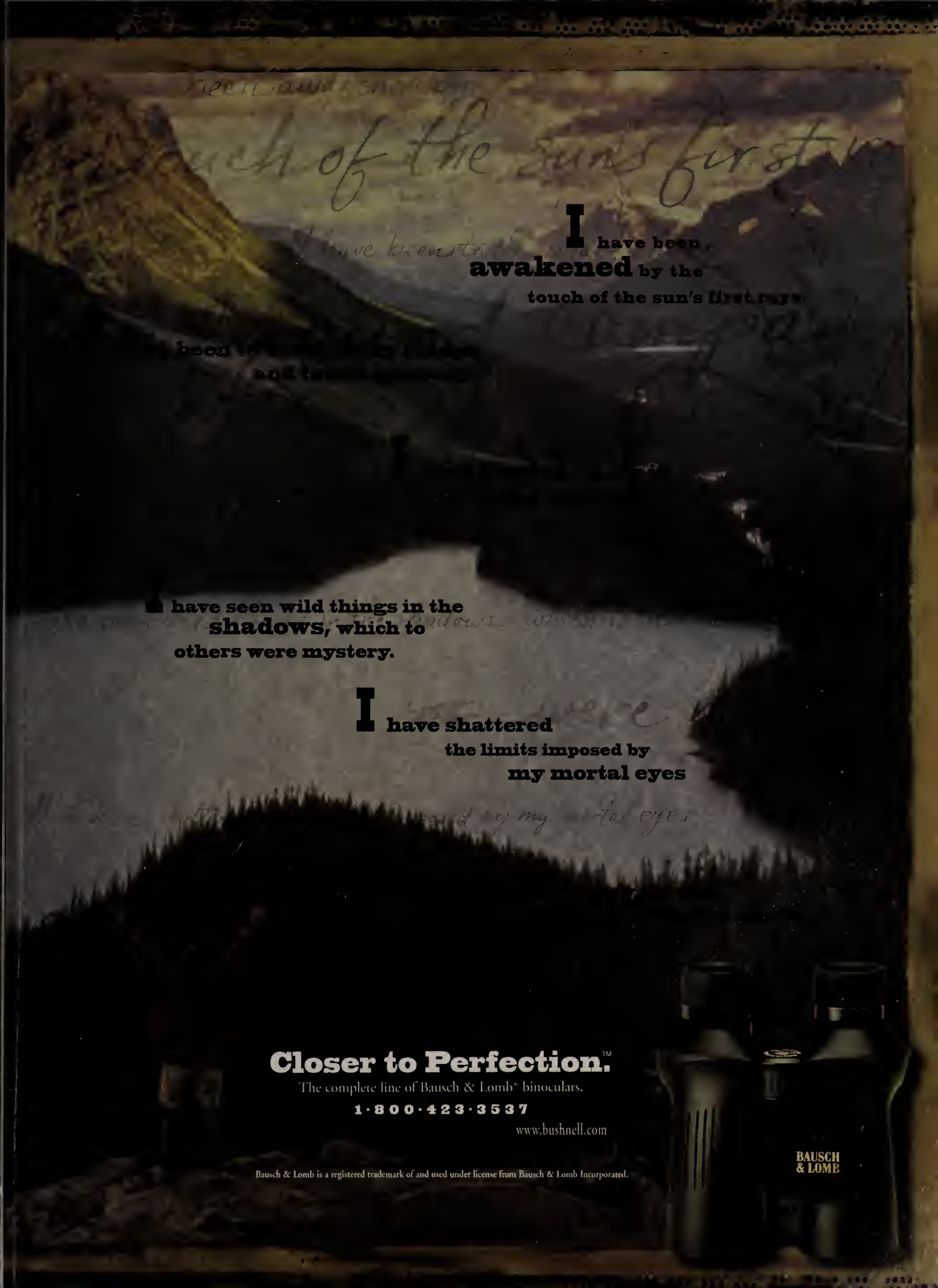
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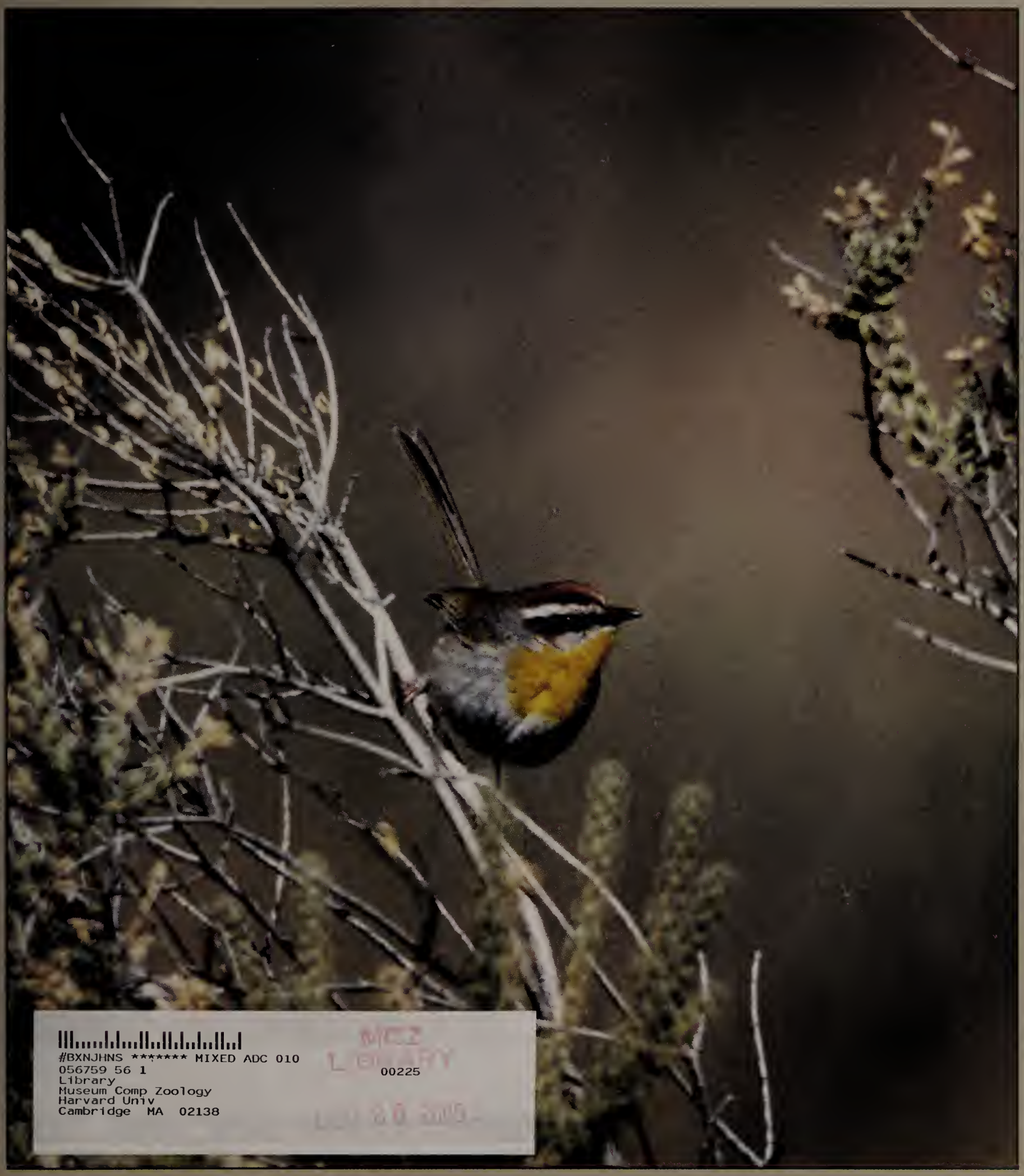

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contents

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 54: NUMBER 2 • 2000

winter season: DECEMBER 1999 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2000

THE REGIONAL REPORTS

150 **Atlantic Provinces**
BRIAN DALZELL

152 **Québec**
YVES AUBRY,
PIERRE BANNON,
and NORMAND DAVID

154 **New England**
PAM HUNT

158 **Hudson–Delaware**
JOSEPH C. BURGIEL,
ROBERT O. PAXTON,
and DAVID A. CUTLER

163 **Middle Atlantic Coast**
MARSHALL J. ILIFF

167 **Southern Atlantic Coast**
RICKY DAVIS

170 **Florida**
BRUCE H. ANDERSON
and RICHARD L. WEST

173 **Ontario**
HUGH G. CURRIE

177 **Appalachia**
ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

180 **Western Great Lakes**
JIM GRANLUND

183 **Middle Western Prairie**
KENNETH J. BROCK

124 **A First Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, in California and a Critical Re-examination of Northern Hemisphere Records of the Former *Diomedea cauta* Complex**
LUKE W. COLE

137 **The Status of Three Species of Marine-Estuarine Birds in the Interior of Florida**
DOUGLAS B. MCNAIR

146 **Changing Seasons: Winter Season, December 1999-February 2000**

225 **Market Place**

227 **Pictorial Highlights**

187 **Central Southern**
STEPHEN J. STEDMAN

191 **Prairie Provinces**
RUDOLF F. KOES
and PETER TAYLOR

193 **Northern Great Plains**
RON MARTIN

195 **Southern Great Plains**
JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

197 **Texas**
CHUCK SEXTON, GREG W. LASLEY,
and MARK LOCKWOOD

202 **Idaho–Western Montana**
DAVID TROCHLELL

203 **Mountain West**
VAN A. TRUAN
and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

206 **Arizona**
ROY M. JONES
and GARY H. ROSENBERG

209 **New Mexico**
SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

212 **Alaska**
THEDE TOBISH

214 **Oregon–Washington**
STEVEN MLODINOW,
BILL TICE,
and BILL TWEIT

217 **Middle Pacific Coast**
SCOTT B. TERRILL,
STEPHEN C. ROTTENBORN,
DANIEL S. SINGER, STEVEN A. GLOVER,
and DON ROBERSON

220 **Southern Pacific Coast**
GUY McCASKIE

223 **West Indies**
ROBERT L. NORTON

ON THE COVER

The Rufous-capped Warbler is a denizen of scrubby oak and coniferous woodlands of Mexico. Prior to 1990, there were but 14 records for the United States, but in the past decade the number of records has doubled. Some of these recent records have involved birds staying for lengthy periods, but none longer than this male at French Joe Canyon, Cochise County, Arizona, that was discovered 20 November 1999 and continues as of this writing. More remarkably, this bird may have been present even longer, as multiple Rufous-capped Warblers were seen somewhat regularly in this remote canyon from 1995 to 1998, hinting that a small population had established itself there. This photograph was taken 26 February 2000 by Michael M. Rogers.

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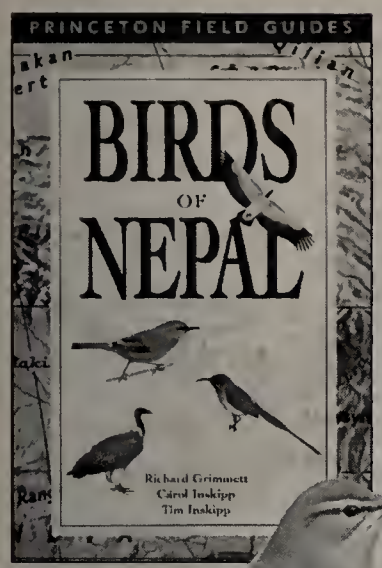

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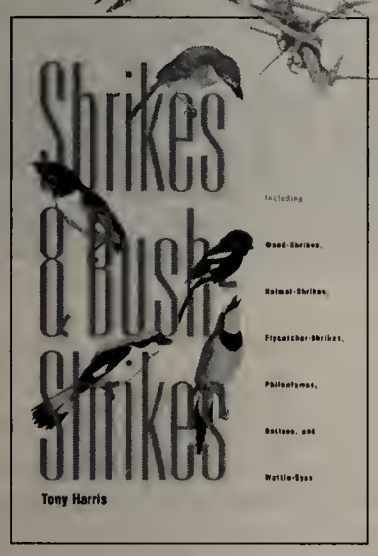

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A First Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, in California and a Critical Re-examination of Northern Hemisphere Records of the Former *Diomedea cauta* Complex

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ABSTRACT

The Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta*, is an Australian species, with some 55,000 to 60,000 pairs breeding on three rocky islands off the Tasmanian coast. It ranges widely in southern waters, and is found off southern Africa and, less commonly, off Atlantic South America. On 24 August 1999, a Shearwater Journeys pelagic trip out of Bodega Bay encountered a Shy Albatross approximately 15 km west-southwest of Point Arena, Mendocino County, California. I detail that encounter herein and discuss the taxonomic evolution, distribution, and status of the *Thalassarche cauta* complex. I offer previously unpublished criteria for separating Shy Albatross, *T. cauta*, from the similar White-capped Albatross, *T. steadi*, in light of the recent suggested split of the species. I also critically review other Northern Hemisphere records (including three other North American records) of the Shy Albatross in light of the suggested split. I conclude that both *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* have occurred in the North Hemisphere and in North America. The Point Arena bird is the first confirmed record of *T. cauta* for North America.

THE SHIFTING TAXONOMY OF THE SHY ALBATROSS COMPLEX

The taxonomy of albatrosses in general, and the Shy Albatross in particular, is dynamic and evolving. To understand where the taxonomy of the Shy Albatross complex stands today requires a brief history of the evolving understanding of its phylogenetic status. The Shy Albatross was first "discovered" in 1798, when Matthew Flinders found the breeding colony at Albatross Island in the Bass Strait north of Tasmania (Mathews 1912, Serventy et al. 1971). It was first described to science by the eminent English ornithologist John Gould in 1841, who named it the Shy Albatross, *Diomedea cauta*.

Reichenbach (1850), an early splitter, divided *Diomedea* into three genera, including the new genus, *Thalassarche* (Reichenbach did not classify *cauta*). Bonaparte (1856) followed Reichenbach in using *Thalassarche*, and put *cauta* within it. Coues (1866:174), who opined that among the albatrosses one could make an "accurate diagnosis of species in the characters afforded us by the bill alone," considered differences among the albatrosses "hardly sufficient" to warrant their own genera, and placed Reichenbach's *Thalassarche* genus, including *cauta*, back into *Diomedea*. Ridgway proposed the genus *Thalassogeron* for those albatrosses (which included the *cauta*, though Ridgway did not mention it) having the "culminicorn widely separated from the latericorn by the interposition of a strip of naked skin behind the nostril" (Baird et al. 1884). The taxon we now call *Thalassarche salvini* was first described as *Thalassogeron salvini* by Rothschild (1893:lviii) on the basis of its smaller bill and tarsus measurements and grayer head and neck than the type Rothschild called *T. cauta*, of Gould.

Australian ornithologist Gregory M. Mathews adopted Ridgway's *Thalassogeron* genus for the Shy Albatross, naming it *T. cautus cautus* (Mathews 1912). Mathews considered two previously described species, *T. salvini* and *T. layardi*, as subspecies of the *T. cauta*: *T. cautus salvini*, breeding on Bounty Island, New Zealand, and *T. c. layardi*, described by Salvin from off the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. Shortly thereafter, Mathews (1916) moved *cauta* into its own genus, *Diomedella*, based on the "large amount of bare skin between the frontal feathering and the culminicorn as well as between the culminicorn" (Mathews and Iredale 1921:47). Loomis (1918) placed the Shy Albatross in *Thalassarche* (to which it has returned 80 years later), and determined that *Thalassogeron layardi* was actually a variation of *Thalassarche cauta*.

Mathews (1927) maintained *cauta* in its own genus as *Diomedella cauta*. He described two subspecies, *D. c. cauta* and *D. c. salvini*, subsuming his earlier subspecies *D. c. rohui* and *D. c. wallaca* into *D. c. cauta*. Mathews (1934) later explained that *cauta* deserved its own

Figure 1. Shy Albatross, off Point Arena, California, 24 August 1999. Photo by Luke W. Cole.

genus on the strength of "the naked skin between the square base of the culmen and the feathers wide [similar to other mollymawks], but the fleshy transverse bar at the based of the ramicorn is continued along the ramus, causing a distinct angle; this character is shared by no other bird in the family." He also opined that "it should be quite easy to name [=identify] any perfect adult bird, and almost as easy from seeing only the bill." Alexander (1928) followed Loomis (1918), and described two subspecies, *Thalassarche cauta cauta* and *T. c. salvini*. He also echoed Loomis in noting that *T. layardi* = *T. cauta*, a conclusion also reached by Murphy (1930), who felt that *T. layardi* was probably *T. c. salvini*.

Murphy (1930) described three races of *T. cauta*, including the newly discovered *T. c. eremita* which Murphy had found nesting on Pyramid Rock off the Chatham Islands. *T. c. eremita* differed from *T. cauta* in size (wing mean = 546 mm, range = 534–562 mm, $n = 7$ males, 9 females), and in having an "entirely bright yellow" bill. Oliver (1930) kept the Shy Albatross in *Thalassarche*, describing two subspecies, *T. cauta cauta* and *T. c. salvini*, and gave the newly described "Chatham Island Mollymawk" full species status as *T. eremita*. Falla (1933) described *steadi* to science from New Zealand waters, and Mathews (1946) placed it as *Diomedella cauta steadi*.

Murphy (1936) changed course and concluded that all albatrosses except sooty albatrosses belonged in the genus *Diomedea*, and described three "well-marked" subspecies of *D. cauta*: *D. c. cauta*, *D.c. salvini*, and *D.c. eremita*. Mathews and Hallstrom (1943) went to the opposite extreme, dividing Diomedeidae into nine separate genera, continuing with *Diomedella* for *cauta*. Mathews (1948) then decided that bill color did not have "generic value" and declaring "we must lump," abruptly placed all albatross (including the sooty albatrosses) into a single genus, *Diomedea*. Oliver (1955) went against this grain and retained *Thalassarche* for the mollymawks.

In 1965, a group of 15 prominent ornithologists from four continents, expressing frustration with the "confusion" in the taxonomy of Procellariiformes, which they largely blamed on Gregory Mathews, reached consensus on a standard taxonomy for the order (Alexander et al. 1965). Noting that Mathews had devised "a series of inconsistent new classifications and succeeded in reducing international usage for the group to chaos," the group reworked the albatross taxonomy and included just two genera in the family Diomedeidae, *Phoebetria* for the sooty albatrosses and *Diomedea* for all others (Alexander et al. 1965). This taxonomic scheme, a return to that suggested by Coues (1866) nearly 100 years before, remained the standard for the next 30 years.

Most recent authorities have recognized three subspecies in the *cauta* complex: *D. c. cauta*, *D. c. eremita* and *D. c. salvini* (Harrison 1985, 1987b, Howard and Moore 1991, del Hoyo et al. 1992, Simpson and Day 1994, Enticott and Tipling 1997), although the recognition of a fourth subspecies, *D. c. steadi*, was questioned by some (Marchant and Higgins 1990, del Hoyo et al. 1992) and acknowledged by others (Brothers et al. 1997).

Nunn et al. (1996) found that the traditional genus *Diomedea* was polyphyletic (had more than one origin), and that the species within *Diomedea* actually fell within three genera, *Thalassarche* (resurrected from Reichenbach 1850) for the southern mollymawks, *Phoebastria* (for north Pacific albatrosses) and *Diomedea* (the Great Albatrosses). *Diomedea cauta* became *Thalassarche cauta*. The A.O.U. (1997, 1998) adopted the new generic-level nomenclature with respect to *T. cauta* (as well as Nunn et al.'s 1996 suggested taxonomy for the other seven albatross species recorded in the A.O.U. area).

Robertson and Nunn (1998) further found that there were clear phylogenetic and morphological differences to separate the 14 species of albatross into 24 full species. This led to their suggesting the splitting of the Shy Albatross complex into four new species: Chatham Albatross, *Thalassarche eremita*, from the former *D. c. eremita*; Salvin's Albatross, *T. salvini*, from the former *D. c. salvini*; White-capped Albatross, *T. steadi*, from the former *D. c. cauta*; and Shy Albatross (which Robertson and Nunn called "Tasmanian Mollymawk"), *T. cauta*, also from the former *D. c. cauta*. They noted that the four new suggested species from the *cauta* complex are the "most difficult to study" due to the isolation

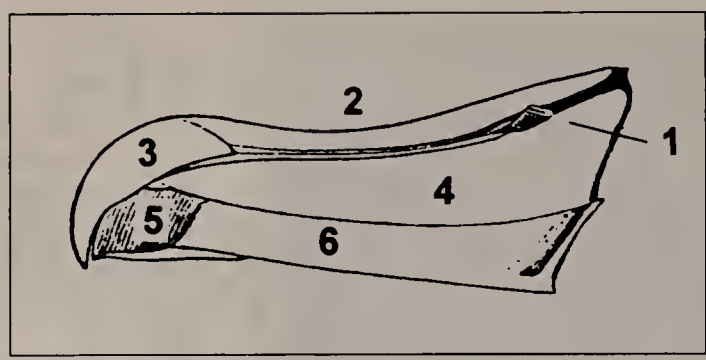

Figure 2: Diagram of an albatross bill. 1) Nostrils; 2) Culminicorn; 3) Maxillary unguis; 4) Latericorn; 5) Manibular unguis; 6) Ramicorn; Drawing from Murphy (1936).

of their breeding sites, and are the most recently described taxa among all albatrosses. This suggested split has been acknowledged by some seabird researchers (Brothers et al. 1998, Croxall and Gales 1998, Gales 1998) and opposed by others (Bourne 1999, Bourne and Warham 1999). It has not been adopted by the A.O.U. (1998). For consistency and ease of reference, I will follow Schodde et al. (1978) and Croxall and Gales (1998) and use "Shy Albatross" to refer to *T. cauta*, and "albatross" rather than "mollymawk" when referring to other (sub)species. When using *T. cauta* in this paper, I am using it in the strict sense to refer only to the taxon formerly known as *Diomedea cauta cauta*.

Throughout this taxonomic flux, the albatross has kept a name—both common (Shy) and scientific (*cauta*, Latin for wary or cautious)—that Gould based on the bird he encountered shying away from the vessel on which he was traveling (Terres 1991). Gould (1865) remarked that "it was most difficult to procure, for it seldom approached our ship sufficiently near for a successful shot." Although some continue into modern times to erroneously report the bird as not following ships (Alexander 1928, Shackleton and Stokes 1968), the name is a misnomer as the bird is a regular ship-follower (Oliver 1930, Serventy et al. 1971, Harrison 1985, 1987b) and is not shy at all (Le Souëf 1895). In fact, the Shy can be "unusually bold" (Barton 1979)—bolder than other albatross species (Richards 1909)—and competes "greedily" for food off fishing boats (del Hoyo et al. 1992; pers. obs.). Indeed, the four North American records of the *cauta/steadi* complex are from close encounters with birds that came to a ship. Le Souëf (1895:415) appears to have coined the name "White-capped Albatross" for the species complex, noting it would be "far more suitable" as the albatross was not shy and the white-capped feature was "very striking."

OUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE BIRD OFF POINT ARENA, CALIFORNIA

The boat *The Tracer* left Bodega Bay at 0545 PDT on a trip designed by Debra Shearwater to explore underbirded areas, and headed north and west into Mendocino County coastal waters. Around 1200 PDT, we stopped and chummed for seabirds at 38°57'N, 123°56'W. The boat was surrounded by about 50 Black-footed Albatrosses, *Phoebastria nigripes*, and numerous Pink-footed Shearwaters, *Puffinus creatopus*, Northern Fulmars, *Fulmarus glacialis*, and Western Gulls, *Larus occidentalis*. A fishing "drag boat" passed by about half a mile away, and minutes later the shout went up from the stern of our boat—"Laysan Albatross! Laysan Albatross!" A large, dark-mantled, light-bodied albatross flew in from the direction of the drag boat. As people were able to better see the bird, a murmur went through the observing crowd that the bird was not, in fact, a Laysan Albatross, *P. immutabilis*. Somebody called out "Shy Albatross!" and pandemonium ensued.

The bird landed in the wake of the boat among the Black-footed Albatrosses and ate bait fish (anchovies) we tossed off the stern, acting aggressively toward other birds competing for the food. It circled the area several times, landed farther away, and finally departed back toward the drag boat. We observed the bird from approximately 1200 to 1235, taking many photographs and capturing video and audio recordings. The bird called several times, a loud *graack* that was captured on several video recorders.

The bird was subsequently reported on 25 September and 4 October 1999 at locations farther south, once off the Sonoma County coast, and once at the Sonoma-Marin County line by the fishing-boat operators who staffed our 24 August boat. It was not seen again by birders attempting to find it (D. Nelson pers. comm.).

Figure 3. Shy Albatross off Point Arena, California, 24 Aug 1999. Photograph by Robert J. Keiffer.

Figure 4. Shy Albatross off Point Arena, California, 24 August 1999. Photograph by Luke W. Cole.

DESCRIPTION

The bird was a large albatross, thick through the neck and bulky in the body, perhaps 20% larger than Black-footed Albatrosses seen nearby, and having a much thicker neck (Fig. 1). The head was white, with a faint gray wash from the cheeks up and across the nape. There was a prominent horizontal rectangular indentation (skull and feathering) around the eye, giving the bird a heavy-browed look. The top of this indentation began just below the top of the bill and ran directly above the eye and back behind the eye. The bottom of the indentation began at the juncture of the maxilla and mandible and ran straight back underneath the eye into the auricular region (Fig.1). The eye was dark, and there was a dark brown or black smudge in the lores. The bill was massive and complex (see Fig. 2). The top of the bill, or culminicorn, was yellow basally, trending quickly to gray-white (Fig. 1, Fig. 3). The base of the culminicorn was edged with a ridge of black skin, which also lined the edge between the nostril tube and the latericorn, or side-plate of the maxilla. The latericorn was gray-white basally, trending toward light yellow distally. The prominent tip of the bill, or maxillary unguis, was yellow. The mandible (ramicorn) appeared to have some orange-yellow basally, then quickly turned to light yellow with what appeared to be a red or dark tip to the lower nail, or mandibular unguis. The gape extended back from the base of the bill in a line in the feathering under the eye and was visible when the bird called. The line of the gape defined the bottom of the horizontal patch around the eye mentioned above.

The breast, belly, undertail, and rump were white. The underwings were white, with a small but noticeable dark mark on the leading edge of the underwing where it joined the body (Fig. 4). There was a narrow dark edging to the white underwing. The upperwing and back were dark gray, trending toward light gray in the upper back. There was a distinct contrast between the dark-gray wings and white body, but the light-gray back smoothly faded into the white hind neck (Fig. 1). The tail was gray, though a lighter gray than the upperwings. The feet were grayish-pink, with lighter pinkish webbing.

On the upper wing, the outer five or so primaries had white shafts and some white in their outer webbing. The bird was molting its flight feathers on both wings. The primary molt appeared to be symmetrical, with the outer four primaries being old, the inner primaries fresh, and a gap or missing feather in between (Fig. 3; B. McKee pers. comm.). It also had a prominent notch in the secondaries, and another, larger notch among the humerals.

DIAGNOSIS

The Point Arena bird's clean white underwings and black pre-axillary mark narrow its identity to one of the southern mollymawks of the genus *Thalassarche*, which used to comprise the species-group then known as *Diomedea cauta*. Below, I discuss its specific identification within that genus, after ruling out other possibilities among albatrosses. The most common albatross off northern California, the Black-footed, is easily distinguished by its dark overall coloring. The Point Arena bird's large size and pure-white underwings with narrow black border eliminate the superficially similar Layan Albatross, seen regularly in winter off California. The other "expected" albatross of the northern Pacific, Short-tailed, *Phoebastria albatrus*, is easily distinguished in all ages by bill size and color, and mantle and head coloration.

Even without the diagnostic dark pre-axillary mark, it is also easy to rule out other albatross species. The combination of the bird's white head, gray mantle and white body, as well as its bill size and color, eliminate the great albatrosses, *Diomedea* spp. (all taxonomy following Nunn et al. 1996 and Robertson and Nunn 1998). Its clean white head and bill coloration eliminate the Black-browed, *Thalassarche melanophrys*; Gray-headed, *T. chrysostoma*; Yellow-nosed, *T. chlororhynchos*, and other *Thalassarche* spp. outside the former *Diomedea cauta* species-group; and the Waved Albatross, *Phoebastria*

TABLE 1: MEASUREMENTS OF LIVE *THALASSARCHE CAUTA* AND *THALASSARCHE STEADI*

Taken by C.J.R. Robertson (all measurements in mm)

Albatross Island, Australia (*T. cauta*)		
wing	m	561 (535-590)[a]
	f	553 (515-578)
culmen	m	130.64 (121.8-139.3)
	f	127.16 (121.6-132.3)
tarsus	m	91.1 (83.9-97.7)
	f	87.8 (82.9-92.3)
Disappointment Island (*Auckland Islands*), New Zealand (*T. steadi*)		
wing	m	604 (590-620)
	f	596 (585-625)
culmen	m	134.9 (129-141.8)
	f	130.6 (124.4-135.6)
tarsus	m	96.0 (91-103.7)
	f	94.1 (88-101)

All samples for each sex, both species are n=30-35.
[a]Only one Albatross Island bird had a wing greater than 580mm.
Source: C.J.R. Robertson, unpubl. data.
N.B.: Earlier subsets of these data (49 birds) were published in Marchant and Higgins (1990:310).

irrorata. The sooty albatrosses have all dark bodies.

The only birds with the dark pre-axillary mark shown by the Point Arena bird are four *Thalassarche* mollymawks generally considered subspecies of *Diomedea cauta*. The Point Arena bird's white head eliminates two members of the Shy Albatross complex, the Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses, which both have gray heads in all plumages. Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses also have more dark on the undersurface of the outer primaries than shown by the Point Arena bird (Marchant and Higgins 1990, del Hoyo et al. 1992). Chatham Albatross has a smaller, bright yellow bill, unlike the Point Arena bird (Marchant and Higgins 1990). Our bird is thus identifiable as part of the species pair *T. cauta/T. steadi*, which are often inseparable at sea (R. White pers. comm.).

THALASSARCHE CAUTA VERSUS *THALASSARCHE STEADI*

Examining several characteristics of the Point Arena bird, I believe it is identifiable as a Shy Albatross, *sensu stricto*. Field guides, both popular (Slater 1970, Simpson and Day 1994) and seabird-specific (Harrison 1985, 1987b), do not illustrate differences between *T. cauta* and the similar *T. steadi*. This omission is probably a result of *steadi's* ambiguous taxonomic existence; not all believe that *T. steadi* is a valid species, or even a subspecies. Marchant and Higgins (1990), for example, note that *T. steadi* is "doubtfully separable from *cauta*." Based on the data reported here, however, I follow Robertson and Nunn's (1998) suggested taxonomy to focus attention on the at-sea identification and distribution of each taxon, although I am aware that this taxonomy is controversial.

Because there are no published works delineating how to separate *T. cauta* from *T. steadi*, I set forth several hypotheses by Australian and New Zealand biologists suggest of how these birds may be differentiated, in the field and in hand, although further work is clearly needed. The following discussion is based on communications from Chris J. R. Robertson of the New Zealand Department of Conservation and Tim Reid of the Tasmanian Department of Parks and Wildlife, two biologists with significant field and museum experience with the Shy Albatross complex (e.g., Brothers et al. 1997, Robertson and Nunn 1998). I also conferred with Gary Nunn, whose studies (along with Robertson) of the mitochondrial DNA of albatrosses have been instrumental in current scientific understanding of the taxonomy of the *Thalassarche* complex and who also has field experience with the Shy Albatross complex.

There are differences between the taxa—of varying degrees of reliability—in bill color, cheek and neck color, and size. There are also differences, not useful in the field, in DNA and in timing of breeding. Knowledge of the *cauta/steadi* complex has evolved since Marchant and Higgins (1990) wrote that separation of *steadi* and *cauta* in the field is "not possible." It may now be characterized as "not impossible," although it is highly problematic. Tim Reid (pers. comm.), for one, does not believe that any feature, either singly or in combination, is reliable, or that *cauta* and *steadi* can be told apart at sea.

Bill Coloration and Shape. In adult birds, there is a clear difference in the coloration of the culminicorn between New Zealand birds (*T. steadi*) and Australian birds (*T. cauta*; C. J. R. Robertson, G. Nunn pers. comm.). Adults of the Australian *cauta* "all have the same density of yellow in the nail, unguis, and base of the culmen plate joined between on the culmen plate by a variable intensity of pale lemon yellow" (C. J. R. Robertson pers. comm.). Adults of the New Zealand *steadi*, by contrast, have yellow in the nail and unguis only; the base of the culminicorn is horn-colored (C. J. R. Robertson, G. Nunn pers. comm.). This feature may remain obvious in dry museum skins (C. J. R. Robertson pers. comm.). The bill coloration field mark is not described in the literature. Indeed, many works with detailed descriptions of the bird do not even mention yellow in the culminicorn of *cauta*. For example, Mathews (1912) called the bill "bluish horn," although this bird was "collected off the Australian coast" and thus could be *T. steadi* (Mathews 1921). He later described adult bill color as "the culminicorn, and the ramus of the ramicorn is light horn; the latericorn, the cutting-edge, and the next two-thirds of the ramicorn are grey-blue" (Mathews 1934:812). Gould (1841, 1865) is an exception. In his type description noted that the bill was "light vinous-gray or blueish horn colour, except on the culmen, where it is more yellow, particularly at the base." Marchant and Higgins (1990) illustrated the head of *T. cauta* (as *D. c. cauta*) and showed the yellow in the base of the culminicorn, but did not include an illustration of *T. steadi*. Serventy et al. (1971) note that Australian breeding birds have a yellow culmen, but were not more specific.

The color of the base of the culminicorn is perhaps the only definitive characteristic observable in the field (C. J. R. Robertson, G. Nunn, pers. comm.). Tim Reid (pers. comm.) remains skeptical of this field mark, however, believing there to be some overlap in bill coloration between birds exhibiting plumage characteristics of *T. steadi* and *T. cauta* (see below).

A second bill difference may be helpful in the field. According to

TABLE 2: PUBLISHED MEASUREMENTS OF *T. CAUTA* AND *T. STEADI*

Source	Species/Location	Number	Sex	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus
Hedd et al.(1998)	*D.c. cauta sensu lato*/	13	male	592 mm (552-720)	137.8 (130.9-146.5)	91.1 (84.4-95.6)
	Aust. waters	29	female	585 mm (540-696)	132.8 (125.8-138.0)	88.6 (82.6-94.9)
Serventy et al. (1971)	*D.c.cauta*/Aust.	unknown	combined	556 mm (523-585)	128 (117-135)	88 (80-95)
Murphy (1930)	unk./Aust. & N.Z.	9	combined	564.8 mm (552-579)	134.1 (129-140)	92.4 (89-96)
Mathews (1912)	"off Aust. coast"	1	ad. male	590 mm	137	86
Le Souëf (1907)	*D.c .cauta*/Albatross Island	1	unknown	22 inches [= 559 mm]	6 inches [= 152 mm]	3.25 inches [= 83 mm]
Coues (1866)	unknown	1	unknown	22.0 inches [= 559 mm]	4.75 inches [= 121 mm]	3.25 inches [= 82.5 mm]
Gould (1841)	Aust. (type specimen)	1	female	21.5 inches [= 546 mm]	4.5 inches [= 114 mm]	3 inches [= 76 mm]

Note: Gould and Coues's measurements for culmen and tarsi fall below the lowest value in Table 1 for *cauta* (or *steadi*) culmen and tarsi, while Le Souef's culmen measurement is larger than any culmen ever reported and his tarsus measurement lower than any in Table 1. These data are probably an artifact of different measuring methodologies among different generations of ornithologists, which can result in different measurements even for the same bird (see, e.g., Hedd et al. 1998). Additionally, it is unclear from the literature if Coues's measurements were of Gould's type specimen (although they differ from Gould's measurements), or of a second bird.

Reid (pers. comm.) the mandibular unguis of adult *T. steadi* remains dark gray to black (and thus contrasts with the sides of the bill to form a dark tip to the mandible), while most (but not all) adult *T. cauta* have the same gray as the sides of the bill with a distal yellow wash adjacent to the yellow of the tip; this field mark is not definitive, however, because some adult *T. cauta* with dark gray bill tips (including the mandibular unguis) have been observed feeding young on the breeding grounds at Albatross Island (Johnstone et al. 1975, Bartle 1975, T. Reid pers. obs.). Confusing matters, subadults of both taxa have a dark gray mandibular unguis (and lessening amounts of dark gray on the maxillary unguis). In terms of bill shape and structure, Robertson (pers. comm.) also reports a "less definitive feature is that the base of the culmen in *steadi* tends to be straighter sided and squarer topped in both skins and live birds in the hand."

TABLE 3. MEASUREMENTS OF FIVE *DIOMEDEA CAUTA CAUTA* COLLECTED OFF AFRICA
(all measurements in millimeters)

Collected	Wing	Culmen	Tarsus	Present location
South Africa (1896)	562	136	89	British Museum
Tamatave, Madagascar (11 Nov 1954)	591	134	96	Paris
Farafangana, Madagascar (4 Sep 1963)	580	130	96	Paris
Reunion (17 Sep 1948)	590	129	96	Paris
Reunion (20 Aug 1890)	580	127	95	Brussels

Source: Bourne 1977.
N.B.: Salvin's original reported measurements for the South African bird were wing 22 inches [=559 mm], culmen 5.4 inches [=137 mm], and tarsus 3.5 inches [=89 mm]. Mathews 1912.

Cheek and neck color. According to Marchant and Higgins (1990), *T. cauta* has a gray wash to the cheeks and ear coverts so that a fairly distinct white cap is formed. Paradoxically, on *T. steadi* (the "White-capped" Albatross) the gray wash is faint or absent, so that the whole head looks whiter, "with a less distinctly capped impression" (T. Reid, pers. comm.). Reid also remains skeptical of these field marks, having observed birds with yellow culminicorns and whiter heads, and dark culminicorns with grayer heads.

Size. Although this difference is too subtle to be useful in the field, the Australian *cauta* are smaller as a group than the New Zealand *steadi*, with smaller average culmen, tarsi, and wing chord measurements (Table 1). The defining characteristic appears to be wing size, in which Robertson and Nunn (1998) reported that there is no overlap between *cauta* and *steadi*. However, this conclusion may be premature (Table 1; *cf.* Table 2).

Using the differential size of wing chords of *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* to differentiate the birds as separate taxa is not without complications. In terms of methodology, the measurement of birds is an inexact science, particularly live birds. It is an accepted fact that different measurers get different measurements (Hedd et al. 1998). Comparing measurements of two different taxa, by different observers, may either underestimate or exaggerate the differences between them. Data sets of measurements by a single observer of two populations (e.g., Table 1) are important because the comparison groups are consistent. Even with these data, however, differences between the largest *T. cauta* and smallest *T. steadi* in measurements of females is a slight 7 mm (578 vs. 585 mm). There is no difference between the largest *cauta* male and the smallest *steadi* male (590 mm).

The problems extend beyond methodology, however. Examining unpublished data indicates that there is overlap between the two taxa in wing size. Thus far the only systematic comparisons are based on birds from Albatross Island (north of Tasmania, Australia) and Disappointment Island (Auckland Islands, New Zealand), and it appears that the three Australian populations (Albatross Island, the Mewstone, and Pedra Branca) may have size differences among them, with some specimens of the Mewstone birds overlapping with females from New Zealand in measurements of wings (C. J. R. Robertson pers. comm.). Tim Reid (pers. comm.) reports that in measurements (by a single investigator) of live birds at the nesting ground, birds from the Mewstone have significantly longer wings (range = 554–595 mm, n = 20) than those from Albatross Island (range = 515–590 mm, n = 36). These data reveal that there are overlaps between *steadi* and at least some populations of *cauta*. There are no measurements as yet from the colony on Pedra Branca.

To further cloud the picture, Reid (pers. comm.) reports that in the study undertaken by Hedd et al. (1998), there were two distinct groupings of albatross wing lengths, one at 540–606 mm (n = 42), the other at 640–720 mm (n = 27; see also Hedd et al. 1998:Table 1). These ranges of wing measurements indicate birds significantly larger than those reported in Table 1, where *cauta* ranges from 515–590 mm and *steadi* from 585–620 mm. The hypothesis is that the grouping with smaller measurements represents *cauta* and the grouping with larger measurements represents *steadi*, although Reid (pers. comm.) reports that one of the birds from the grouping with larger measurements was banded as a chick on the Mewstone, and therefore presumably is *cauta*.

To sow even more confusion, ongoing genetic work and specimen research indicates that *T. cauta, sensu stricto*, may actually be more than one taxon. The 250 pairs of Shy Albatrosses breeding on Pedra Branca, south of Tasmania, may be genetically distinct from other Shy Albatrosses breeding elsewhere off Tasmania, as well as from *T. steadi*.

Perhaps the one generalization that can be made is that those specimens or live birds having measurements in the lower range are *cauta*, probably from Albatross Island, while those at the high end of the spectrum are probably *steadi*. Those in the mid-range may not be diagnosable by wing measurements. More research is clearly needed in this complex.

Additionally, culmen and tarsus measurements overlap and are thus useful only in conjunction with wing measurements. Reid (pers. comm.) reports specimens with culmen measurements exceeding all measurements of both taxa in Table 1 that fit comfortably within the *cauta* wing measurement grouping.

DNA. Robertson and Nunn (1998) reported, although without data, that the results of mitochondrial DNA cytochrome-b gene sequences supports the separation of *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* into separate species, but their analysis also relies on "clearly unique morphological diagnosable features" such as wing size. The latter may not be supported given the variation in *T. cauta* measurements from Albatross Island and the Mewstone reported above. As Robertson and Nunn (1998) noted, aside from wing morphometrics, "other differences seem less clear-cut" between *cauta* and *steadi*.

Breeding period. There is at least a two-month difference in timing between the egg-laying periods of the two taxa (Robertson and Nunn 1998). There is also a difference in nesting cycle duration. Of the two, *T. cauta* has the shorter nesting-cycle and breeds earlier, breeding in the austral spring, laying eggs from mid-September and hatching in late November and early December (Le Souëf 1895, Robertson and van Tets 1982), with a mean incubation period of 72 days (68–75, n = 15; Robertson and van Tets 1982). The chicks fledge in the austral autumn, late March and early April (Marchant and Higgins 1990, Hedd et al. 1998). The entire process thus lasts about eight months. *T. steadi* takes longer to complete nesting (10 months). It begins in the late austral spring (late November) and fledges chicks early the next spring (August; Robertson in Powlesland 1985, Marchant and Higgins 1990, Brothers et al. 1997).

Conclusion. Despite identification difficulties posed by the *cauta/steadi* complex, the Point Arena bird is identifiable as a Shy Albatross, *T. cauta, sensu stricto*, based on the yellow in the base of the culminicorn,

as well as its cheek and neck coloring. After comparing photos of the Point Arena bird with his photos of *T. cauta* nesting at Albatross Island, Gary Nunn (pers. comm.) concurred with this identification. After a review of photos, Tim Reid (pers. comm.) concludes that although he is not convinced it is *cauta* because of the unreliability of field marks, the bird shows "all of the characteristics of a classic Shy Albatross, with quite grey cheeks giving a capped appearance, a yellow base to the culminicorn and the very little (or no) grey at the tip of the lower mandible." The Point Arena bird's bill color and lack of a partial collar are consistent with adult plumage, though the apparent dark in the mandibular unguis may indicate a young adult. As the sexes are outwardly alike (Marchant and Higgins 1990), it is impossible to know the bird's sex. The call is consistent with MacLean's (1993) and Sinclair's (1984) description of Shy Albatross call as *waak*, which Sinclair describes as "a loud, raucous call." The wing molt—old outer primaries, new inner ones, with a missing feather in between—suggests serially descendant molt, as is expected in the Shy Albatross (Melville 1991).

Figure 5. Bill of Shy Albatross collected off Washington State, 1 September 1951 (USNM 420017).

DISTRIBUTION

The Shy Albatross breeds only in Australia, with nesting colonies on Albatross Island off the northwest tip of Tasmania, and on two rocky islands, the Mewstone and Pedra Branca, off its south coast (Croxall and Gales 1998, Trounson and Trounson 1989). Once breeding age is attained, Shy Albatross ranges less widely than do young birds (Brothers et al. 1997, Croxall and Gales 1998).

Band recoveries for birds banded on Albatross Island and the Mewstone show that the Shy Albatross ranges up both coasts of Australia to about 25°S (Brothers et al. 1997). In Victoria and Tasmanian waters it is perhaps the most common albatross (Serventy et al. 1971, Barton 1979), and it is "abundant" off the coast of New South Wales. However, the large numbers of *cauta*-type albatrosses and the measurements of *cauta*-type albatrosses taken in Eastern Australian waters indicate that some on this coast are *T. steadi* from New Zealand (Marchant and Higgins 1990, Brothers et al. 1997, T. Reid pers. comm.). On the other hand, Croxall and Gales (1998:54) reported that *T. steadi* "appears to be confined to New Zealand seas." *T. cauta* from the Mewstone have also been found off New Zealand (Marchant and Higgins 1990). The White-capped Albatross, *T. steadi*, breeds on Disappointment Island in the Auckland Islands group south of New Zealand.

Farther from the breeding grounds, the distribution of *T. cauta* is obscure and is complicated by the taxonomic evolution of the four-member Shy Albatross complex. Most works do not specify which subspecies of the former *Diomedea cauta* complex is being referred to and many at-sea reports are simply of "Shy Albatross" (Tickell 1995). Whereas, as mentioned above, two of the taxa—Salvin's, *T. salvini*, and Chatham, *T. eremita*—can be distinguished in the field from *T. cauta* in adult plumage, separating immatures at sea is difficult (Harrison 1985); indeed, seabird experts disagree on the identity of published photographs of birds of this complex (see, e.g., Harrison 1984, Bourne 1984). Further, even in adult plumage, the White-capped Albatross is only separated from the Shy Albatross by subtle and perhaps not definitive field marks, as discussed above. It thus is an understatement to say that the bird's "migratory strategy and route [are] not well known" (del Hoyo et al. 1992). However, given the suggested split of *T. cauta* and *T. steadi*, and the question of each taxon's dispersal globally, I here focus on records of both taxa from areas away from the breeding grounds.

Even before the paper by Robertson and Nunn (1998), some authors treated Shy/White-capped complex [= *Diomedea cauta cauta*] as different from Salvin's and Chatham Albatrosses, and provided distributional information on this basis. From such sources, it is possible to determine that off the breeding grounds, the Shy/White-capped Albatross is circumpolar and ranges widely at sea in the southern Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, north to about 25°S, but parimarily south of 40°S (Harrison 1985, 1987a,b, Tickell 1995). South of Australia and New Zealand, it is found in northern sub-Antarctic waters to at least 52°S (Bretagnolle and Thomas 1987). Both the Shy and White-capped Albatrosses are found in southern African and South American waters.

Africa. Based on band recoveries and specimen measurements, *T. cauta* is certainly and *T. steadi* is almost certainly found off the coasts of Africa. Harrison (1985) reported that "present evidence suggests that *D. c. cauta* wanders west across the Indian Ocean to Cape seas." References to "Shy Albatross" before the proposed split report it to be a "common visitor" to the coasts of South Africa (Sinclair 1984), recorded throughout the year (Liversidge 1959) but achieving the greatest concentrations in the austral winter (August; Shackleton and Stokes 1968, Brooke and Sinclair 1978). It is found as far south as 44°S and as far west as 8°15' E (Van Oordt and Kruijt 1953, Summerhayes et al. 1974, Clark 1987). Dead birds are rarely but regularly found washed ashore on South African beaches (n = 1–5 annually; Cooper 1978, Avery 1979, 1984). Young Shy Albatrosses, *T. cauta*, from the Mewstone occur fairly commonly off South Africa; indeed, four of eight (50%) band recoveries from immature birds banded at the Mewstone, and three of seven (43%) band recoveries from first-year birds banded there, were from South Africa (Brothers et al. 1997). Two birds collected off Natal and Zululand, South Africa, in the 1950s (now in the Durban Museum collection) are described as *D. c. cauta* by Clancey (1978) and, although unsexed, are attributable by wing measurement

(564 mm and 572 mm; Clancey 1978) to *T. cauta*. Adult *cauta/steadi*-type birds are also found off South Africa (Shaughnessy and Frost 1976), but whether they are Mewstone birds remaining there, or *T. steadi* is not yet clear (T. Reid pers. comm.).

T. steadi occurs in African waters, based on one presumably definitive specimen from Kenya and a small number of other specimens that are probably *T. steadi*. Bourne's (1977) examination and measurement of five skins in European collections of *cauta/steadi* collected off southeastern Africa included two birds that are generally larger than *T. cauta* and thus probably *T. steadi*, as shown in comparison of the measurements (*cf.* Table 1, Table 3). Incidentally, the South African bird, taken off the Cape of Good Hope in 1896, was first described as a new species, *Thalassogeron layardi*, by Salvin (1896), then later thought to be a Salvin's Albatross (Bourne 1977). Bourne (1977) believed it to be a young *cauta/steadi*; if correct, based on its measurements, it would be *T. cauta*, although its measurements also fit within the range of *T. salvini* (Marchant and Higgins 1990:310).

Aside from these specimens, there are also band recoveries from South African waters of at least three birds banded at sea off New Zealand during the breeding season and thus presumably *T. steadi*. However, *T. cauta* does occur off New Zealand and thus the identity of these birds is not definitive (Brothers et al. 1997). Although White (1973) hypothesizes that they were probably subadult when banded, at least two of the individuals were adults when recovered (5 years 8 months and 11 years 8 months between banding and recovery, respectively; White 1973).

There is some confusion as to which taxa of the Shy Albatross complex (*sensu lato*) occurs off South Africa (Brothers et al. 1997)—early reports claimed only *D.c. salvini* [=*T. salvini*] occurred (Van Oordt and Kruijt 1953). Then several researchers and observers concluded that both *D.c. salvini* and *D. c. cauta* [=*T. cauta/steadi*] were present (White 1973, Brooke and Sinclair 1978 (nominate race "commoner than *salvini*"), Harrison 1984), while others argued that only the *D.c. cauta* occurred (Bourne 1977, 1982, Clancey 1978). This confusion is undoubtedly exacerbated by the fact that most of the band recoveries of *T. cauta* from South African waters have been from immature and first-year birds, which can have extensive gray in their heads, as does *T. salvini* (Brothers et al. 1997).

Outside of South African waters, the *cauta/steadi* complex is found off both the east and west coast of Africa. Along the southwestern coast of Africa *T. cauta/steadi* is found off Namibia and regularly north at least to Angola, around 15°S (Summerhayes et al. 1974, Sinclair 1984, Harrison 1985, 1987a, b, Tickell 1995). In this region, it is more common in the austral winter (August-October) than in summer (February), although surveys have found concentrations of up to 100 in autumn, too: March, April, and May (Summerhayes et al. 1974).

Off the east coast of Africa, the *cauta/steadi* complex ranges much farther north, being "possibly regular" in fall in the Pemba Channel off of northern Tanzania (Zimmerman et al. 1996), at approximately 5°S latitude. A near-adult female described as *Diomedea cauta cauta* caught in fishing nets off Mombasa at 4°S, on 14 November 1986 provided a first record for Kenya (Cunningham-van Someren 1988). The specimen is now in the collection of the Department of Ornithology, National Museums of Kenya (J. Githaiga-Mwicigi pers. comm.). Based on its measurements—culmen = 136 mm, wing = 610 mm (reported as "61 mm" in error in Cunningham-van Someren 1988), tarsus = 93 mm—the Kenya bird presumably is *T. steadi*.

There is one report of *Diomedea cauta*, possibly a Salvin's (see below), off the coast of Somalia, at 11°50'N latitude (Meeth and Meeth 1988). To date, only *cauta/steadi* of the Shy Albatross complex is confirmed as occurring in East African waters (J. Githaiga-Mwicigi pers. comm.). Larry B. Spear (pers. comm.) reported seeing a few *cauta/steadi* wintering off Madagascar, and Enticott and Tipling (1997) mentioned a record of *D. cauta* from Mauritius but provided no details.

South America. The status of the Shy Albatross off South America is similarly murky. Harrison (1985, 1987a,b) reported that the distribution of *D. c. cauta* [= *T. cauta/steadi*] in the southern Pacific ranges as far north as 25–30°S off South America. Harrison (1985) noted that some birds move west across the Indian Ocean and then across the southern Atlantic to coasts of eastern South America, while smaller numbers appear to wander *east* toward the west coast of South America. Tickell (1995) showed *D. c. cauta* ranging up the coast of Chile and Peru from 50°S to 10°S, and del Hoyo et al. (1992) stated *D. c. cauta* occurs commonly off South America. These assessments are not supported by field researchers. Earlier, Murphy (1936:526) stated that only *D. c. salvini* had "thus far been recorded with certainty in South American waters." Slipp (1952) noted that a 1951 record off Washington state (see below) was the first known occurrence of *D. c. cauta* in the waters of the Americas. Larry B. Spear (pers. comm.), in hundreds of hours of surveys in the Peru current, has never seen a *cauta/steadi*, although *T. salvini* winters there in large numbers.

Although *T. salvini* is common in Chile and there are photos and reports of Chatham Albatross, *T. eremita*, in Chilean and Peruvian waters (Haase 1994, A. Jaramillo pers. comm.), A. Jaramillo, P. Burke and D. Beadle (in prep.) do not include the Shy Albatross [=*T. cauta/T. steadi*] in their forthcoming *Field Guide to the Birds of Chile*, as there are no known specimens or photographic records from that country. Howell and Webb will also omit the species in their forthcoming work on Chilean birds (S. N. G. Howell pers. comm.). The *cauta/steadi* complex has not been recorded in the Cape Horn area or Straits of Magellan either (Harrison 1985).

Although not mentioned in Argentina in field guides (e.g., Narosky and Yzurieta 1987), the *cauta/steadi* complex does occur rarely in the South Atlantic. In the waters of the Falkland Islands, *cauta/steadi* is a regular but rare visitor in late (austral) summer, autumn and early winter (R. White pers. comm.). Woods (1988) reported eight sightings of *D. c. cauta* in waters off the Falkland Islands, three in late March 1987, one in April 1986, and four between June and August 1984. The "Seabirds at Sea Team" (whose at-sea surveys covered 50,000 km over an 18-month period starting February 1998 and recorded over 250,000 seabirds) observed a total of 16 "Shy" [= *Diomedea cauta* complex] albatrosses off the Falklands in 1998, 2 in February, 2 in March, 9 in April, 1 in May and 2 in July. Most birds were immatures, several showing characteristics of Salvin's Albatross and several possible *cauta/steadi*; one record is of an adult of the *cauta/steadi* type (R. White and R. Woods, pers. comm.). There is a specimen described as an adult *D. c. cauta* taken off South Georgia on 16 November 1926 in the Liverpool Museum (Bourne 1977, Prince and Croxall 1983). There is one record of *Diomedea cauta* for Brazil, a young female found dead on a beach in Rio Grande do Sul State (30° 55'S, 50° 45'W), extreme south Brazil, in April 1990 (Petry et al. 1991). The specimen is no. 36922 in the collection of the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Petry et al. (1991) could not determine the subspecies of *D. cauta* and felt it might it be *D. c. salvini* based on underwing pattern. On the basis of its measurements—wing = 580 mm, tarsus = 95.7 mm, culmen = 129 mm (Table 1; cf. measurement for *T. salvini* in Bourne 1977, Marchant and Higgins 1990)—the bird could be either *T. salvini* or *T. steadi*, and is within millimeters of the upper measurements for female *T. cauta*.

At this point, it is unclear whether or not it is *cauta* or *steadi*, or both, which occur in small numbers off Atlantic South America. Birds in the *cauta/steadi* complex have shown a propensity for wandering to the Northern Hemisphere.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE RECORDS OF SHY ALBATROSS RE-EXAMINED

In addition to the Point Arena sighting, there are five more northern hemisphere records of the Shy Albatross complex. The Somali bird mentioned above was not identified to species, but the other four were report-

ed as the nominate *Diomedea cauta cauta*: one record from the Gulf of Aqaba (Egypt and Israel) and one from Oregon and two from Washington state. A sight report of Salvin's Albatross from California was not accepted by the California Bird Records Committee (Rottenborn and Morlan 2000). Given the suggested split of *D. c. cauta* into Shy Albatross, *T. cauta*, and White-capped Albatross, *T. steadi*, all of these records must be re-examined to determine their taxa. Fortunately, two of the five records are represented by specimens and two more were extensively photographed. In undertaking this re-examination, I focused on the color of the culminicorn, perhaps the only reliable field mark for separating the taxa, as well as wing, culmen, and tarsus measurements in the two available specimens. In the scope of my research, I examined one of the two extant specimens from the Northern Hemisphere. It appears that two records cannot be identified to taxon—one is possibly *T. salvini* or *T. eremita* (Somalia) and one clearly *T. cauta/steadi* (Oregon). Of the remainder, one is *T. steadi* (Washington 1951), and the other two *T. cauta* (Israel/Egypt and Washington 2000). Thus, both *cauta* and *steadi* have occurred in the Northern Hemisphere.

Washington, 1951. The oldest record from the Northern Hemisphere is from Washington state. This bird, reported as *Diomedea cauta cauta*, was an adult female collected on 1 September 1951 by J.W. Slipp, 65 km west of the Quillayute River, Clallam County, Washington (Slipp 1952). This bird—the only specimen from North America—appears to be a White-capped Albatross, *Thalassarche steadi*, which would represent a new taxon for North America (A.O.U. 1998) and the first record of *T. steadi* for the Northern Hemisphere. I base the identification of the bird on its bill coloration from accounts at the time the bird was collected (and examination of the specimen), and on wing, bill, and tarsus measurements..

Bill. After examining the bird in hand, Slipp (1952) wrote that the culminicorn (and the rest of the bill) was "generally light gray with a slight yellowish tinge," with a "rich corn yellow" nail. After examining the specimen (USNM 420017; Fig. 5), I confirmed Slipp's observation: the culminicorn is a grayish horn color from the base to the point where the bill curves downward. From there to the tip of the bill it is yellow with a streak of the grayish horn. The lack of distinct yellow in the base of the culminicorn indicates *T. steadi*. Measurements confirm this identification. Slipp measured the culmen at 136 mm. This is larger than any culmen measurements of a female *T. cauta* or *T. steadi* in the limited data available (Table 1), but the larger culmen also points to *T. steadi*. The largest culmen among *T. cauta* females was 132.3 mm (mean = 127.16 mm, n = ±30); the largest among *T. steadi* females was 135.6 mm (mean = 130.6 mm, n = ±30; C. J. R. Robertson unpubl. data).

Wing. Slipp measured the wing chord at 584 mm, and James Dean of the U.S. National Museum remeasured it at 586 mm in July 2000, which also indicates *T. steadi*. The largest female *T. cauta* measurement is 578 mm (mean = 553 mm, n = ±30), whereas *T. steadi* ranges from 585–625 mm (Table 1), although Hedd et al. (1998) reported female wing chord measurements, presumably from *steadi*, up to 696 mm (Table 2). While the measurements of the Washington bird were taken from a "thoroughly dried skin" (Slipp 1952), I believe they are comparable to the measurements of live birds (Table 1). There are also potentially larger *cauta* than those presented in Table 1 breeding at the Mewstone (see above).

Tarsus. Slipp measured the tarsus at 92 mm. Although the tarsus measurement is in a small zone of overlap between *T. cauta* (82.9–92.3 mm, n = ±30) and *T. steadi* (88–101 mm, n = ±30), it is at the uppermost bound of measurements for *cauta* and well within those for *steadi*. When taken with the wing and culmen measurements this measurement, too, points to *T. steadi*.

Thus, based on the combination of field marks and measurements, the 1951 Washington bird appears to be identifiable as *T. steadi*. C. J. R. Robertson (pers. comm.) independently reached this conclusion based on his research. The presence of the specimen at the U.S. National Museum would allow DNA testing to support this identification.

Oregon, 1996. The second North American record of the *cauta/steadi* complex was a bird well-photographed over the north end of Heceta Bank, 40 km west of Yachats, Lincoln County, Oregon, 5 October 1996 (Hunter and Bailey 1997, 1998). The bird appeared to observers to be in transition from juvenal to subadult plumage (Hunter and Bailey 1997). Hunter and Bailey (1997) provide the following description of the relevant features:

"The photos clearly show a light gray wash on the sides of the lower neck, which, to our knowledge, was not observed by anyone in the field. The bill is large, and nearly featureless gray to gray-green, with a complex of dusky and yellow at the tip, and a narrow black line at the base of the upper mandible. The brightest yellow of the bill is confined primarily to the cutting edge, especially near the tip of the upper mandible, while the upper and lower extents of the tip show dusky smudges."

Matt Hunter (pers. comm.) also described the bill color as "sort of dishwater greenish gray, with a tip of mixed yellow and extensive dusky." Hunter noted that the bill color was between that illustrated for immatures and adults in Harrison (1985) and better matched the photo labeled "subadult" in Harper and Kinsky (1978:21); however, the subadult in Harper and Kinsky has already lost all its gray on the neck and has a bill color indicating a more mature bird compared to the Oregon bird: the bill of the bird in the Harper and Kinsky photo being quite frosty white/gray versus the duller green/gray of the Oregon bird (M. Hunter pers. comm.). Therefore, on present knowledge, it appears that the Oregon bird cannot be identified to taxon as the potential field mark of culminicorn coloration does not emerge until adulthood. Some have suggested that this bird is the same individual as the 1999 California record and the 2000 Washington record.

Washington, 2000. The most recent record is also from Washington state: on 22 January 2000, a pelagic birding trip organized by Terry Wahl encountered a *cauta/steadi*-type albatross at 46° 54' N and 124° 54' W off Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington (B. Tweit, R. Shaw pers. comm.). Photographs I have examined (Fig. 6) show the diagnostic features of the *cauta/steadi* complex: dark gray-black mantle, clean white underparts, clean white underwings with a thin black edge and a dark spot at point where the leading edge of the wing meets the body, and a relatively clean white head with a faint gray wash to the nape and cheeks. The bird was observed for about 25 minutes as it fed on chum and flew short distances near the boat. Both Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses were also present for comparison. Bill Tweit (pers. comm.) supplied the following description:

"A large, white bodied albatross. First seen in flight, where the dark brown upperwings grading into a grayish back, sharply contrasting white rump and dark gray rectrices made it clear we were looking at a mollymawk and not a Laysan. White neck also contrasted pretty cleanly with gray back. Upper surface of the outer primaries showed a small white flash. As it banked, I could see the underwing pattern very clearly, with narrow black outlining brilliant white underwings and a circular black dot at the juncture of the forewing and the body.... As it landed near the stern, I got my first good look at the details of the head and beak coloration. The massive beak was a greenish-yellow in tone, with a lighter stripe on the ridge of the upper mandible, and a contrasting bright yellow-orange tip. The iris was dark, accentuated by a darkish line over it and a strong gray smudge behind it. The crown was bright white, while the face and the nape were dusted with grayish that had some hints of yellow-brown. Legs and feet pinkish, darker at the webs. Size and shape contrasts with nearby Black-footed and Laysan Albatross were obvious. This was clearly a bigger bird, seemingly 20% or more. The chest appeared much more massive in flight, and the beak was much thicker, particularly at the base."

Observers did not closely note the color of the culminicorn, but from the photos it appears to be yellowish, indicating the bird is *T. cauta*, a first for Washington State. This identification is also indicated

by the dark cheeks and neck (T. Reid pers. comm.). The inevitable question is, was the bird off Washington in January 2000 the same bird seen off California in August 1999? This question is unanswerable, unless pelagic-trip operators begin catching and banding or otherwise marking vagrant albatrosses.

Israel, 1981. An immature of the *cauta/steadi* complex was seen 20–26 February 1981 from Taba, Egypt and Elat, Israel in the Gulf of Aqaba. The bird was seen again 2 March 1981, and was later found dying on a salt pond at Elat, Israel, 7 March 1981 and was collected (R. Nathan pers. comm., Goodman and Storer 1987, Hillcoat et al. 1997). The bird is erroneously reported as "found dead" in several published references including Jennings (1985), Meeth and Meeth (1988), and Snow and Perrins (1998). The specimen is no. 9659 at the Tel Aviv University Museum (Paz 1987). It was reported as nominate *D. c. cauta* (Beaman and Madge 1998). It was a male (R. Nathan, pers. comm.), and its measurements—wing = 583 mm, culmen = 131 mm, tarsus = 90 mm (Y. Yom-Tov pers. comm.)—confirm it as *T. cauta* (see Table 1).

Somalia, 1986. An albatross was seen from a freighter, 18 nautical miles off Cape Guardafui, Somalia (11° 50' N, 51° 35' E), 18 September 1986 (Meeth and Meeth 1988). The observers noted "a large, long-winged albatross. The upperwing and back were sooty grey, crown of head and cheeks were light grey. The large white rump was conspicuous. The underparts were white except for the black wing tips, and a very thin dark leading and trailing edge. The bill was grey" (Meeth and Meeth 1988:66). The bird was too far away to see the diagnostic dark spot under the leading edge of the wing. Based on the field marks observed and described, this bird is not identifiable to species within the Shy Albatross (= *Diomedea cauta*) complex. The gray head fits all four members of the complex in juvenal and subadult plumage, and Salvin's and Chatham in adult plumage (Harrison 1985, 1987b), although the black wing tips, especially seen at a distance, suggest a Salvin's Albatross, *Thalassarche salvini* (Bartle 1975, Barton 1979, Bourne 1983) or Chatham Albatross, *T. eremita* (Marchant and Higgins 1990, del Hoyo et al. 1992).

STATUS AND MOVEMENTS

The world population of the Shy Albatross is estimated at 55,000–60,000 individuals, although this estimate is of "moderate accuracy only" (Gales 1998:29). The Shy Albatross has suffered from its interactions with humans. The first known encounter with man occurred in 1798, when the explorers Matthew Flinders and George Bass discovered Albatross Island. As Flinders wrote, putting ashore, Bass was "obliged to fight his way up the cliffs of the island with the seals, and when arrived at the top, to make a road with his clubs amongst the albatrosses" (Mathews 1912). The Shy Albatross breeding colony at Albatross Island was decimated, first by seal hunters and later by plume hunters, reducing population from an estimate of 20,000 pairs in the late 19th century (Croxall and Gales 1998, Gales 1998) to ±400 nests in 1894 (Warham 1990) and ±300 nests by 1909 (Gales 1998, del Hoyo et al. 1992). The Albatross Island breeding colony has recovered to about 5000 breeding pairs today (Croxall and Gales 1998). The nesting colonies at the isolated rocks of the Mewstone and Pedra Branca, off southern Tasmania, have an estimated breeding population of 7000 pairs and 200–250 pairs, respectively (Gales 1998, Brothers et al. 1998).

How would a Shy Albatross end up off California? As Stallcup and Terrill (1996) noted, in "most situations, one can never know with certainty that a vagrant seabird has arrived at a location without direct human involvement." However, given the distribution and history of wandering in the *cauta/steadi* complex, whereas ship assistance should be taken into consideration (Harrison 1985, Mlodinow 1999), it seems likely that the Point Arena Shy Albatross arrived unaided. Members of the *cauta/steadi* complex have journeyed to the Northern Hemisphere at least three, perhaps four previous times, twice to the northwestern coast of the United States. These earlier records from the Pacific Coast illustrate its potential for long-distance vagrancy (Roberson 1980). It was seen in late August, consistent with the two previous early to mid-fall sightings (1 September and 5 October) in the northern Pacific. Finally, as Slipp (1952:459) concluded about the Washington state record, the albatross' "size and nature would render it a most unlikely captive."

SUMMARY

The bird seen off Point Arena, California, in August 1999 is identifiable as a Shy Albatross, *Thalassarche cauta, sensu stricto.* Examining prior records of the Shy Albatross complex from the Northern Hemisphere and comparing them to known morphometrics of *T. cauta* and the recently-suggested split *T. steadi*, I have concluded that both *T. cauta* and *T. steadi* have previously occurred in the Northern Hemisphere, but that prior to the Point Arena sighting, the only identifiable record of this species complex in North America was a *T. steadi*, off Washington state in 1951. The Point Arena bird thus represents the first definitive *T. cauta* for North America, although a subadult bird of the *cauta/steadi* complex well seen off Oregon in 1996 but not identifiable to taxon, could have been a *cauta*. The 2000 Washington bird may represent a second *T. cauta* for North America, although the fact that it might be the same individual as seen off California cannot be ruled out.

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Species level nomenclature and taxonomy used in *North American Birds* strictly follows that of the seventh edition (1998) of American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds*. Identification of a particular bird to species is often difficult enough. In some instances, however, a bird can be identified below the species level (i.e., to subspecies), to a discrete phenotype (e.g., a distinct morph), or is not a full taxon (i.e., it is a hybrid). Caution is needed (and urged!) whenever identifying a bird to subspecies or as a hybrid, but some subspecies, subspecies groups (a collection of similar subspecies), and hybrids have distinctive enough appearances that they actually have established common names. To facilitate communication and to encourage the reporting of these forms, *North American Birds* often uses these established common names. The more frequent ones are listed below; others can generally be found in the *Check-list* cited above.—Michael A. Patten

Common name	What it means
Great White Heron	*Ardea herodias occidentalis*
Richardson's (Canada) Goose	*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*
Cackling (Canada) Goose	*Branta canadensis minimus*
Atlantic Brant	*Branta bernicla hrota*
Black Brant	*Branta bernicla nigricans*
Mexican Duck	*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*
Common Teal	*Anas crecca crecca; A. c. nimia*
Harlan's Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis harlani*
Western Willet	*Catoptrophus semipalmatus inornatus*
Common Gull	*Larus canus canus; L. c. heinei*
Vega Gull	*Larus argentatus vegae; L. a. birulai*
Yellow-shafted Flicker	*Colaptes auratus auratus* group
Red-shafted Flicker	*Colaptes auratus cafer* group
Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay	*Aphelocoma californica woodhousei* group
Brewster's Warbler	Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler hybrid (dominant)
Lawrence's Warbler	Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler hybrid (recessive)
Myrtle Warbler	*Dendroica coronata coronata* group
Audubon's Warbler	*Dendroica coronata auduboni* group
Yellow Palm Warbler	*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*
Large-billed Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus*
Red Fox Sparrow	*Passerella illiaca iliaca; P. i. zaboria*
Sooty Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca unalaschcensis* group
Slate-colored Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca schistacea* group
Thick-billed Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha* group
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii*
Slate-colored Junco	*Junco hyemalis hyemalis* group
Oregon Junco	*Junco hyemalis oregonus* group
Gray-headed Junco	*Junco hyemalis caniceps*
Red-backed Junco	*Junco hyemalis dorsalis*
White-winged Junco	*Junco hyemalis aikeni*
Pink-sided Junco	*Junco hyemalis mearnsi*
Hepburn's Rosy-Finch	*Leucosticte tephrocotis littoralis*

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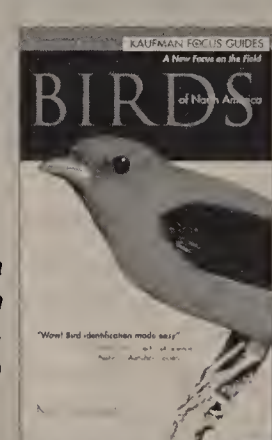

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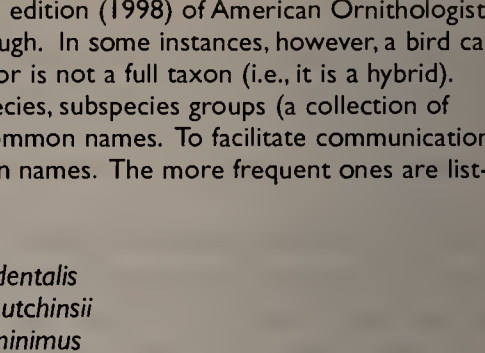

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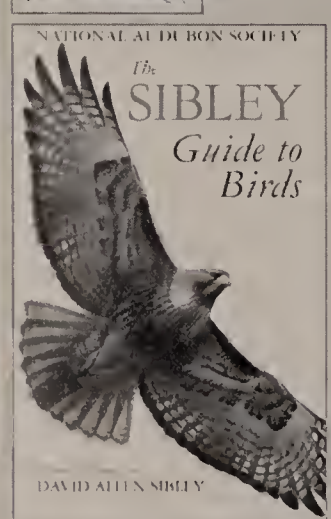

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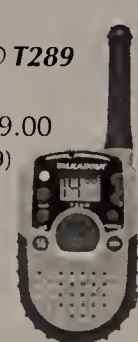

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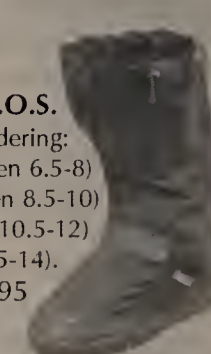

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The Status Of Three Species Of Marine-Estuarine Birds In The Interior Of Florida:

Attraction to Phosphate Mines of the Central Peninsula

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ABSTRACT

I documented and analyzed the inland status of three species of marine-estuarine birds that have rarely occurred in the interior of Florida, based on observational data and information from recovery of banded birds. All but one occurrence are from the 20th century. Brown Pelicans *Pelecanus occidentalis* have increased throughout the interior since the mid-1980s, and although they occur most frequently in the central peninsula, the influence of phosphate mines was negligible. Their increase, based on observational data, involved a shift in the seasonal distribution from winter and spring to predominantly spring. The increase of Royal *Sterna maxima* and Sandwich *S. sandvicensis* Terns was restricted to phosphate mines in the interior of the central peninsula, where most other observations also occurred. The seasonal distribution of Royal Tern, based on observational data, involved a shift from winter prior to the late 1980s to also include spring and autumn since the late 1980s, when phosphate mines influenced their occurrence during both seasons. Recovery of most banded Royal Terns and Brown Pelicans occurred during winter, possibly indicating greater mortality during that season. In contrast to Royal Tern, the seasonal distribution of Sandwich Tern was concentrated in late summer and autumn. The probable reasons for the change in the inland status of the three species in Florida include their response at phosphate mines to the availability of early to mid-successional clay settling ponds with sandy shorelines and other open water habitats. The status of marine-estuarine birds in the interior of Florida is subject to a number of influences; the importance of the Lake District of the central peninsula is emphasized.

INTRODUCTION

Located in the central peninsula of Florida, the Lake District is a water-dominated landscape unique in southeastern North America, with the largest concentration of natural lakes in the eastern United States south of the Great Lakes (Brenner et al. 1992). The development of the pebble-phosphate mining industry beginning in the 1930s in central Florida has added to this landscape diked, raised clay settling ponds, with and without vegetation depending on successional stage (Blakey 1973, Bromwell 1982, Rushton 1983). These artificial freshwater impoundments increased in size later, especially with the accelerated growth of phosphate production since the early to mid-1960s (Bromwell 1982, Rushton 1983, Riekerk et al. 1991). The impoundments now cover about 60% of the mined landscape in central Florida, although land reclamation laws passed in 1975 mandate that these impoundments are converted to terrestrial habitats (Rushton 1983, Riekerk et al. 1991). Thus, each impoundment that is productive wildlife habitat for open-water birds depends upon how long the filling stage lasts (reception of water with 2–5% solid clay slurry), usually anywhere from approximately 2–10 years. Two other man-made open freshwater habitats occur at phosphate mines. After the dragline was introduced in 1920 (DeVall and DeVane 1949, Blakey 1973), many unreclaimed mine pits became deep-water finger lakes or water-filled pits with barren shorelines which were and still remain one of the dominant landforms on phosphate mines (Schones and Humphrey 1987). "Land-and-lakes" (gently contoured lands interspersed with series of deep-water lakes) were added when voluntary reclamation efforts by mining companies began in 1949 (Blakey 1973). For example, dredge pits at the old Saddle Creek phosphate mine just outside Lakeland, Polk County, were converted to the "land-and-lakes" landscape (Blakey 1973); this site became a county park in 1961. Phosphate mining in central Florida has recently expanded to Manatee and Hardee Counties (IMC-Agrico homepage). Because of its high quality, most pebble phosphate is still mined in southwest Polk (and eastern Hillsborough) County (DeVall and DeVane 1949, Blakey 1973, Layne et al. 1977, Schones and Humphrey 1987), where it began in the mid-1880s. In contrast to central Florida, the much smaller phosphate-mining industry in the

northern peninsula did not begin until the early 1970s (Maehr 1981, Schones and Humphrey 1987).

The Lake District (and Lake Okeechobee) does influence movements to the interior of Florida of marine-estuarine birds that breed along the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts of the state, regardless of observer biases (*cf.* Least Tern *Sterna antillarum*; McNair 2000a). Least and Gull-billed *S. nilotica* Terns have nested regularly at man-made sites (including phosphate mines) in the interior of Florida (Maehr 1984, McNair 2000a). Man-made habitat changes have also helped non-breeding populations of Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla* and Black Skimmer *Rynchops nigra* to increase, and both species have become numerous at phosphate mines in the central peninsula over the last two decades (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, C. Geanangel pers. comm.). Thus, phosphate mines in the interior of Florida have influenced the inland status of four species of marine-estuarine birds that breed along the coast. Excluding shorebirds from consideration, the remaining three marine-estuarine species that breed along the coast of Florida (Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis* and Royal *S. maxima* and Sandwich *S. sandvicensis* Terns) have rarely occurred in the interior, but an increasing number of occurrences has accumulated over the past several decades, especially in the central peninsula. Although a large proportion of non-breeding inland occurrences of some marine-estuarine and other marine birds has been attributed to storms (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), an analysis has been lacking, except in the case of Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* (McNair 2000b).

I document and analyze the inland status of three species of marine-estuarine birds (Brown Pelican, and Royal and Sandwich Terns) that have rarely occurred until recently in the interior of Florida to address three issues: 1) Have these three species really increased in the interior of Florida or does an apparent increase only represent an increase in observer effort? 2) What is the significance of any change in status and how may habitat changes influence the status of these three species in the interior of the central peninsula, especially at phosphate mines? 3) Have tropical cyclones influenced the occurrence of these three species in the interior of Florida?

METHODS

I restricted my analyses to three species of marine-estuarine birds that breed along the coast of Florida (Clapp et al. 1982, 1983, Clapp and Buckley 1984, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). I omitted other species of marine-estuarine birds heretofore mentioned and which breed along the coast of Florida because I could not distinguish many non-breeding from regular breeding occurrences of Gull-billed and Least Terns in the interior, and non-breeding occurrences of Laughing Gull and Black Skimmer have become so numerous they are impossible to analyze with the methods employed herein.

I conservatively defined the interior of Florida to exclude tidewater areas and the immediate coast. For example, the occurrence of a coastal bird at Lake Maggiore, Pinellas County, or in the bypass canal that extends inland from Palm River in Hillsborough County is not considered to be from the interior of Florida. I obtained observational data on inland occurrences of Brown Pelicans and Royal and Sandwich Terns from Howell (1932), Clapp et al. (1982, 1983), Robertson and Woolfenden (1992), Stevenson and Anderson (1994), *Audubon Field Notes* and its successors *American Birds* (cf. Loftin et al. 1991), *Field Notes*, and *North American Birds*, the field observations section of the *Florida Field Naturalist*, the archives, specimens, and photographs at Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS), specimens from other collections, and unpublished observations of various individuals (see Acknowledgments). Additional information was obtained for Brown Pelican in Nicholson (1927, 1951) and Smith and Goguen (1993) and for Royal Tern in Lohrer (1984) and Fellers (1988). I excluded inland occurrences of Brown Pelicans from Lake Okeechobee since 1986 because they have become more or less resident since the late 1980s and breeding began there in 1991 (Smith and Goguen 1993, Anderson and Baker 1994). I also excluded several suspect reports for Royal Terns in the interior of Florida because I believe these birds were misidentified. I categorized each observation for all three species in the interior of Florida into one of four geographic regions as defined by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992).

Observational data substantially departed from a normal distribution. Consequently, I used non-parametric tests, although analogous parametric tests on log-transformed numbers yielded similar results. For each species, I tested for differences between counts at and away from phosphate mines, then among geographic regions, then among years.

I obtained recovery data from the Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, United States Geological Survey and published sources, Longstreet and Davis (1936), Longstreet (1945) and Smith and Goguen (1993) for Brown Pelican, and Lohrer (1984) for Royal Tern. I examined all banding records for internal consistency and rigorously excluded any record if I was not certain that the bird was recovered within the interior of Florida. Because information on the total number of pelicans and terns banded prior to 1955 is not available (Schreiber and Mock 1988, K. Klimkiewicz pers. comm.) and the number of recoveries is low, I did not adjust recovery data for banding effort. I used three age-classes (immatures, subadults, adults) for each species. Immatures are nestlings or fledged birds less than or equal to 12 months old. Subadults are about 1–4 years old (Brown Pelican) or circa 1–2 years old (terns). Adults are 5 years (Brown Pelican) or 2 years (terns) (Schreiber and

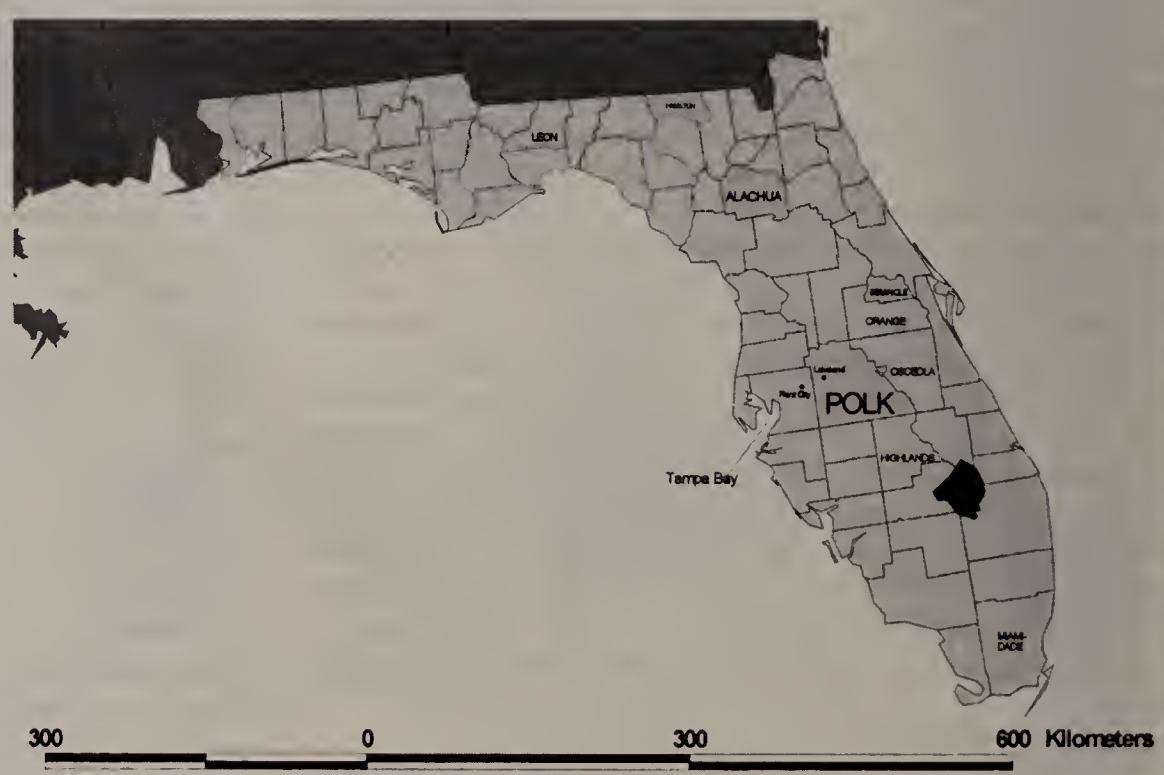

Figure 1. Important geographical locations in Florida that are cited in the text, including names of counties from each of the four regions where observations of three marine-estuarine species were most numerous.

Schreiber 1983; cf. Blokpoel et al. 1984).

I examined the tracks of tropical cyclones in the North Atlantic Ocean using several sources (Neumann et al. 1981, annual reports in *Monthly Weather Review* for data from 1981–1995 and in *Weatherwise* from 1996–1999) to determine which species occurrences were associated with tropical cyclones. The broad category of tropical cyclones included tropical depressions and subtropical cyclones with winds ≥ 63 km (39 mph). I defined a marine-estuarine bird to be cyclone-assisted if the bird was reported within 500 km of the storm track and within 3 days before to 10 days after the storm's landfall or offshore passage (*cf.* Tuck 1968, Fussell and Allen-Grimes 1980, McNair and Gore 1998). These associations should be reliable because almost all observations of the three species in the interior of Florida that were associated with tropical cyclones occurred within 4-5 days after the passage of the storm (*cf.* DeBenedictus 1986). For additional clarification, I also examined hurricane season summaries of North Atlantic tropical cyclones in *Monthly Weather Review*, weather data in *Storm Data* (since 1959), and *Daily Weather Maps* (since 1969).

RESULTS

Observational Data

Brown Pelican and Royal and Sandwich Terns have occurred over 40 times each in the interior of Florida, with Brown Pelican the most numerous and Sandwich Tern the least numerous of the three species (Table 1). Over 70% of the total observations for each species in the interior were from the central peninsula (χ^2 probability < 0.01 for each species, tests excluding regions without observations). For each geographic region, observations have centered on the following counties or city-county entities, listed in order of decreasing abundance for central Florida only (Fig. 1): Panhandle (*Leon*), North Florida (*Alachua*), Central Florida (*Polk, Highlands, Orange, Osceola,* and *Seminole*), and South Florida (*Miami-Dade*). South Florida was the only region where observations were not concentrated in a county or city-county entity that contained numerous large lakes.

Table 1. Number of observations of three species of marine-estuarine birds in the interior of Florida, and the percentage of these species within four geographic regions.

Species	Number of Observations	Percentage (%) of Observations			
		Panhandle	North	Central	South
Brown Pelican	122	5	17	71	7
Royal Tern	69	4	15	81	0
Sandwich Tern	41	5	0	90	5

All observations of these three species at phosphate mines in the interior of Florida occurred within the central peninsula at Polk County, where Brown Pelican was the least numerous of the three species (Table 2). The number of observations at phosphate mines as a percentage of the total number of observations throughout the central peninsula and all regions in the interior of Florida was greatest for Sandwich Tern and least for Brown Pelican (Table 2).

Table 2. Number of observations of three species of marine-estuarine birds at phosphate mines in Polk County, and the percentage of these observations of the number throughout the central peninsula and all regions in the interior of Florida.

Species	Number of Observations Phosphate Mines	Percentage (%)	
		Central Florida	All Regions
Brown Pelican	19	22	16
Royal Tern	31	55	45
Sandwich Tern	32	86	78

The number of occurrences by decade for all three species has increased in the interior of Florida (Table 3). The increase was significant for Brown Pelican (first occurrence in 1910 and first occurrence at phosphate mines in 1987; 88% of occurrences since the 1970s) and Royal Tern (first occurrences in 1887 and 1935 and first occurrence at phosphate mines in 1981; 91% of occurrences since the 1970s). Sandwich Tern also has increased (first occurrence in 1965 and first occurrence at phosphate mines in 1984), especially in the 1990s (73% of all occurrences). The number of birds per occurrence for each of the three species in the interior of Florida did not exceed 2 until the mid- to late 1980s, for Brown Pelican (1986), Royal Tern (1988), and Sandwich Tern (1984).

Table 3. Number of observations of three species of marine-estuarine birds by decade in the interior of Florida.

Species	Decade										Spearman's Rank Correlation	
	<1910	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	r	P
Brown Pelican	–	4	1	2	0	4	4	10	22	73	0.78	0.01
Royal Tern	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	10	14	39	0.82	0.02
Sandwich Tern	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	5	30	na[1]	na[1]
TOTAL	1	4	1	4	1	4	8	24	41	142		

[1] na = not applicable

Counts of Brown Pelican in the interior of Florida away from Lake Okeechobee have reached 20 birds (in Polk County, away from phosphate mines). The number of birds at phosphate mines (median = 1, range = 1–3, n = 19) was not significantly different than the number away from phosphate mines (Mann-Whitney U tests), either compared to throughout the interior of Florida (median = 1, range = 1–20, n = 101; U = 788, P > 0.20), only within central Florida (median = 1, range = 1–20, n = 66; U = 473, P = 0.10), or only within Polk County (median = 1, range = 1–20, n = 24; U = 160.5, P = 0.10). The mean number of birds at phosphate mines in Polk County (1.21) was less than in these three regions (range of means: 2.25–3.88). Including or excluding observations at phosphate mines, the number of pelicans in the interior of Florida was not significantly different among the four geographic regions (Kruskal-Wallis tests; including phosphate mines: H = 3.32, P > 0.25; excluding phosphate mines: H = 4.64, P = 0.20). The mean number of birds in the central peninsula with (2.27) and without (2.58) observations at phosphate mines was greater than in the other three regions (range of means: 1–2). Including or excluding observations at phosphate mines, the median number of Brown Pelicans has significantly increased throughout the interior of Florida since 1986 in comparison to observations before 1986 (Mann-Whitney U tests; including phosphate mines, U = 1138, P = 0.02; excluding phosphate mines, U = 797, P < 0.01). Except for one count of four birds in August, other counts of greater than two pelicans (n = 20) have occurred from December to June when birds also have been most frequently observed in the interior of Florida (Fig. 2). Within this broad peak, the seasonal distribution has shifted from winter and spring prior to 1986 to predominantly spring since 1986 (Fig. 3). Their seasonal distribution at phosphate mines did not affect these patterns. The number of pelicans per occurrence in the interior of Florida associated with tropical cyclones ranged from one to two birds (n = 6; 5% of total number) from June to November (1910 to 1996).

Counts of Royal Terns in the interior of Florida have reached 26 birds (at phosphate mines in Polk County). The number of birds at phosphate mines (median = 2, range = 1–26, n = 31) was significantly greater than the number away from phosphate mines, compared to either the whole of the interior of Florida (median = 1, range = 1–6, n = 38; U = 304, P < 0.001) or only within central Florida (median = 1, range = 1–6, n = 25; U = 219, P = 0.005). The sample away from phosphate mines within Polk County (median = 1, range = 1–3, n = 5) was too small to test. The mean number of birds at phosphate mines in Polk County (3.84) also was greater than in these three regions (range of means: 1.39–1.6). Excluding obser-

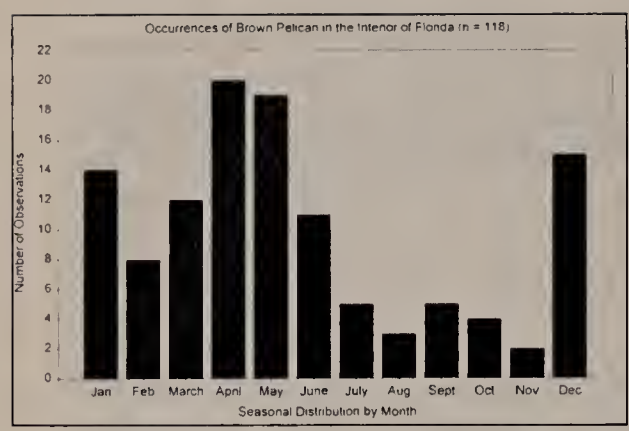

Figure 2. Number of observations of Brown Pelican from the interior of Florida by month for all years.

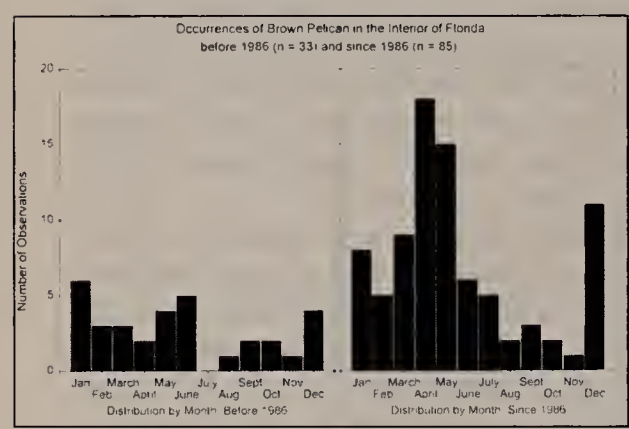

Figure 3. Number of observations of Brown Pelican from the interior of Florida by month before 1986 and since 1986.

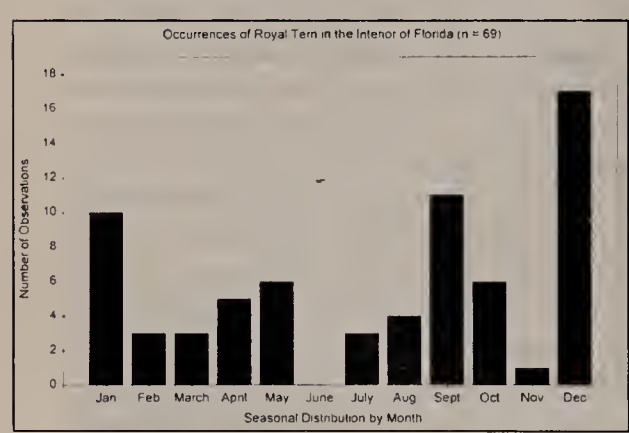

Figure 4. Number of observations of Royal Tern from the interior of Florida by month for all years.

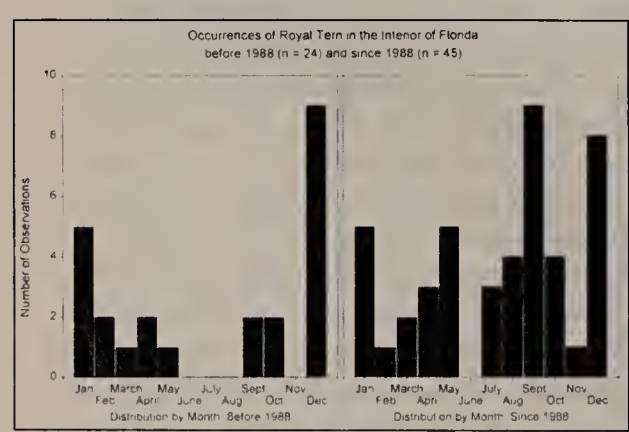

Figure 5. Number of observations of Royal Tern from the interior of Florida by month before 1988 and since 1988.

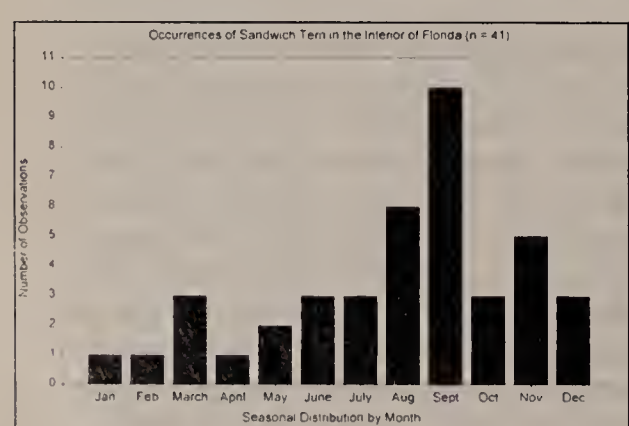

Figure 6. Number of observations of Sandwich Tern from the interior of Florida by month for all years.

vations at phosphate mines, the median number of Royal Terns in the interior of Florida was not significantly different among the Panhandle and the northern and central peninsula (Kruskal-Wallis test; $H = 1.36$, $P = 0.51$). Again excluding phosphate mines, the median number of Royal Terns in the interior of Florida since 1988 (median = 1, n = 17) was not significantly different than before 1988 (median = 1, $n = 21$; $U = 136.5$, $P > 0.20$). The mean numbers were 1.71 (since 1988) and 1.14 (before 1988). Except for two counts, other counts of greater than two birds (n = 14) have occurred from December through May which contain two of the three months (December, January) with the greatest number of observations (Fig. 4). The peak of the seasonal distribution of Royal Terns has shifted however, from winter before 1988 to include spring (April–May) and autumn (July–October) since 1988 (Fig. 5). Observations at phosphate mines have contributed to the increase in spring and autumn. Observations away from phosphate mines have contributed to the increase during autumn only. Two occurrences of a single Royal Tern (3% of total number) were associated with tropical cyclones in September.

Counts of Sandwich Terns in the interior of Florida have reached 554 birds (at phosphate mines in Polk County). The number of birds at phosphate mines (median = 16, range = 1–554, n = 32) was significantly greater than the number away from phosphate mines throughout the interior of Florida (median = 1, range = 1-2, n = 9; $U = 27$, $P < 0.001$). Except for two counts, counts of greater than 15 birds (n = 17) have occurred from late July to early December, when the number of observations (and number of birds) peaked in September (Fig. 6). Whereas Sandwich Terns have occurred in the interior of Florida throughout the year, the five occurrences (one or two birds) at and away from phosphate mines from January to March are from south and central Florida. Five occurrences (12% of total number) were associated with tropical cyclones. Three observations (all single birds) away from central Florida occurred in September. Two counts (of 2 and 113 birds) in central Florida occurred at phosphate mines.

Recoveries of Banded Birds

Brown Pelicans and Royal Terns were two species that have been recovered within the interior of Florida since 1934 and 1930 respectively. Most of these recoveries were from the central and northern peninsula, none from phosphate mines; only one recovery of a Brown Pelican was from the Panhandle. Ten of 34 recoveries (29%) of Brown Pelicans were from the 1930s. Except for two recoveries since then, other recoveries have occurred since the 1970s (65%). Twenty-seven of 31 recoveries (87%) of Royal Terns have been since the 1970s, with 21 of these from the 1980s.

Most recoveries have involved immature or subadult Brown Pelicans (n = 30, 88%) and Royal Terns (n = 27, 87%). The first recoveries of adult Brown Pelicans and Royal Terns were in 1978 and 1982, respectively. Except for two rehabilitated pelicans and one Royal Tern of unknown age, other birds were originally banded as immatures. Most recoveries of immatures were direct recoveries of nestlings and juveniles. Brown Pelicans were originally banded on the Atlantic (North and South Carolina, Florida; n = 20) and Gulf (Louisiana, Florida; n = 3) Coasts. Royal Terns were recovered only from Atlantic Coast colonies in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Most recoveries for all age-classes of Brown Pelicans (75%) and Royal Terns (84%) occurred from December to March. One nestling Royal Tern (68481200) banded in Virginia on 2 July 1985 was recovered in northeast Polk County away from phosphate mines on 7 September 1985, which was exceptionally early. None of the recoveries for either Brown Pelicans or Royal Terns were associated with tropical cyclones.

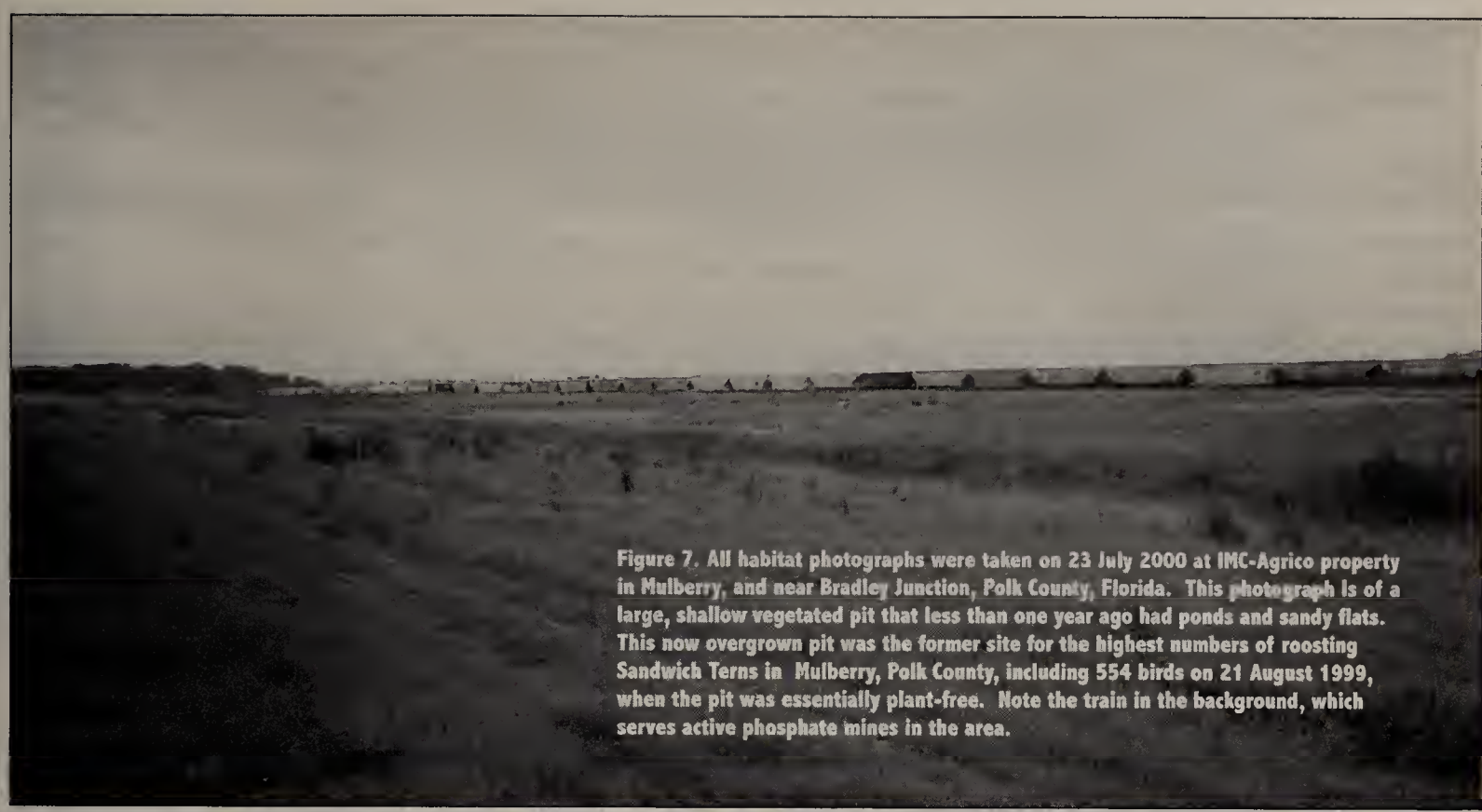

Figure 7. All habitat photographs were taken on 23 July 2000 at IMC-Agrico property in Mulberry, and near Bradley Junction, Polk County, Florida. This photograph is of a large, shallow vegetated pit that less than one year ago had ponds and sandy flats. This now overgrown pit was the former site for the highest numbers of roosting Sandwich Terns in Mulberry, Polk County, including 554 birds on 21 August 1999, when the pit was essentially plant-free. Note the train in the background, which serves active phosphate mines in the area.

DISCUSSION

Observer and habitat biases that contributed to the concentration of observations of the three marine-estuarine species in the interior of the central peninsula of Florida are similar to those for Magnificent Frigatebird (although frigatebirds do not land on water; see McNair 2000b), except for the number and proportion of observations at phosphate mines, especially for Royal and Sandwich Terns.

The different timing in the development of the phosphate-mining industry in the central and northern peninsula had no apparent effect on the occurrence of marine-estuarine birds in the interior of Florida. The first confirmed occurrences of Brown Pelican and Royal and Sandwich Terns on large clay settling ponds and other open-water habitats at phosphate mines in the central peninsula were not until the early to mid-1980s (this study; although a few unspecified observations may have occurred in the 1970s, cf. Layne et al. 1977), one decade after phosphate mining began in the northern peninsula. Access to phosphate mines in central Florida has improved since 1982 (C. Geanangel pers. comm.) when other rare to uncommon waterbirds have been reported (Fellers 1989, Palmer 1991, Paul et al. 1994). However, the prior absence of observations of the three marine-estuarine birds at phosphate mines probably cannot be attributed to a lack of observer effort (despite the post-1980 restriction of observations to Polk County), although observer effort has greatly increased throughout the interior of Florida (for observational and recovery data) since the 1970s (McNair 2000b, this study). O. Baynard found an active nest of the Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus* in an old phosphate mine near Plant City, Hillsborough County as early as 1931 (Howell 1932), after draglines were introduced. When the number and size of clay settling ponds expanded, Gull-billed and Least Terns began breeding at phosphate mines as early as the mid-1960s (TTRS archives). In addition, Maehr (1984) documented the occurrence of other larids and American White Pelican *P. erythrorhynchos* at phosphate mines in central Florida, yet no Brown Pelicans or Royal and Sandwich Terns. Brown Pelicans were not observed at Saddle Creek park until the 1990s (when single birds were recorded on three occasions in spring), despite public access and observer coverage since the early 1960s. Furthermore, the absence of counts greater than two birds for any of the three marine-estuarine species from anywhere in the interior of Florida (including phosphate mines) until the mid- to late 1980s, and the magnitude of the counts for Royal and Sandwich Terns (mainly the latter species) at phosphate mines in Polk County since then suggests the increase is real and not an artifact of an increase of observer effort in specialized habitat.

Although much smaller, the phosphate-mining industry in the northern peninsula contains fairly large (28–288 ha) active and inactive settling ponds (Wenner and Marion 1981, Maehr and Marion 1986) where Brown Pelicans and Royal and Sandwich Terns have never been observed. These marine-estuarine birds have not been overlooked because many investigators have conducted scientific studies in large retention ponds at northern phosphate mines (mainly Hamilton County) over the last several decades (Marion et al. 1981, Wenner and Marion 1981, O'Meara et al. 1985, Myers et al. 1989). Other rare waterbirds have been reported there in all seasons (Repenning and Wester 1978, Stafford 1979, Maehr 1981, 1984, Maehr et al. 1984, Woolfenden and Woolfenden 1984, Maehr and Marion 1986, Bergstrom 1999), including a breeding population of Least Terns (Maehr 1982). Thus, absence of the three coastal species from phosphate mines in the northern peninsula is real and not an artifact of observer effort.

Unlike the northern peninsula, the Lake District of central Florida provides a water-dominated landscape for east-west movements of marine-estuarine birds to phosphate mines in the interior. However, with or without phosphate mines, marine-estuarine birds that rarely occur in the interior of Florida have been concentrated in the Lake District of the central peninsula (and Lake Okeechobee; cf. McNair 2000a). Although the Lake District narrowly extends up the central sandy ridge to the northern peninsula where observers are concentrated in Alachua County (where east-west movements are not impeded by the peninsular base which is located further north along the Georgia border), relatively few marine-estuarine birds have occurred in the northern peninsula or in other regions of Florida outside the Lake District. The Lake District also concentrates other marine-estuarine birds that normally do occur in the interior of Florida (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). This includes such understudied phenomenon as the nocturnal foraging and bathing of Black Skimmers along shores of lakes during winter, which formerly required daily movements of birds from the coast (Nicholson 1948) before establishment of large winter populations (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and

Anderson 1994).

Despite the influence of the Lake District on the movement of marine-estuarine birds to the interior of the central peninsula (see above and the introduction), the increase of Royal and Sandwich Terns in the interior of Florida has been restricted to phosphate mines since the mid- to late 1980s, unlike Brown Pelican which does not rely on phosphate mines yet has increased throughout the interior of Florida. This suggests that habitat features at phosphate mines may account in part for this difference in comparative use among the three species (see Figs. 7-10), and not other factors such as distance from the coast (50-65 km). The terns forage at large diked early to mid-successional clay settling ponds (not late successional ponds which are dominated by marsh), less frequently at the two other open-water habitats. They may roost on barren shorelines at these ponds with many other larids (e.g., Caspian *S. caspia* and Black *Chlidonias niger* Terns, Black Skimmer; C. Geanangel unpubl. data), on sandy spits that are relatively free from disturbance, or on nearby sandy flats associated with pools. Royal and Sandwich Terns may remain overnight at phosphate mines or return to the coast. Regardless, both terns have directed movements to phosphate mines, which this study has undoubtedly greatly undersampled. A systematic sampling scheme would greatly improve our knowledge of their movements and uses of phosphate mines. This movement is especially remarkable for Sandwich Terns, because numbers in autumn can be so large yet Sandwich Terns remain rare in the interior of Florida away from phosphate mines. In contrast, movements of individuals of both species to the central peninsula away from phosphate mines and to the interior of other regions of Florida still appear to represent disoriented immatures, which recovery data for Royal Tern has confirmed.

An assessment of the status of breeding populations of Royal Terns in the Southeast since Clapp and Buckley (1984) is not available. However, an increase of Tampa Bay breeding populations (Egensteiner et al. 1996) and the seasonal shift in distribution of birds in the interior of Florida to include spring and autumn (at phosphate mines; other birds elsewhere in the interior of Florida only shifted during autumn) suggest that local coastal birds may now occur inland outside the breeding season and augment the number of northern birds. However, apparent directed movement of Royal Terns to phosphate mines in the central peninsula may instead represent northern birds that are migrating, although the number of birds is low. The origin of these birds requires confirmation. Before the late 1980s, the sharp peak of observations in December and January of Royal Terns corresponded to the timing of recoveries in the interior of Florida of banded birds that fledged from breeding colonies on the Atlantic coast from Virginia to South Carolina (Lohrer 1984, this study). In addition, Smith et al. (1994) documented that banded Royal Terns salvaged over winter on the coast of central Florida were almost entirely from northern breeding populations.

Breeding populations of Sandwich Tern have increased locally (central Gulf coast of Florida) since the mid-1980s (Rodgers et al. 1996), but the recent increase of breeding populations elsewhere in Florida has been modest (McNair and Gore 1999). Unlike Royal Terns, most Sandwich Terns occur in the interior of Florida only in late summer and autumn. The timing and magnitude of some counts (up to 544 birds) suggest that post-breeding individuals from more westerly or northerly populations are involved. The large numbers also suggest a Gulf and not Atlantic origin for the birds (Clapp and Buckley 1984), and the phosphate mines themselves are located closer to the Gulf than to the Atlantic Coast. Compared to Sandwich Terns in autumn, few Royal Terns use phosphate mines even though coastal breeding populations in central Florida are higher. This also suggests that local Sandwich Terns may be scarce at phosphate mines in autumn, although adults feeding juveniles have been present as early as late July. The scarcity of Sandwich Terns from the interior of Florida in April and May, in conjunction with low numbers along the coast during this period (Clapp et al. 1983), suggests that many birds migrate offshore during spring. Winter occurrences in the interior are few (cf. Woolfenden 1973), even if removed reports are included (e.g., Sullivan 1986), because most Sandwich Terns winter south of Florida.

Including or excluding phosphate mines of the central peninsula, only the Brown Pelican has modestly increased in abundance throughout the interior of Florida since the mid-1980s, except for the much larger increase at Lake Okeechobee (Smith and Goguen 1993). This suggests that the increase in frequency of occurrence outside Lake Okeechobee is also real, not an artifact of an increase in observer effort. Smith and Goguen (1993) attributed the increase of Brown Pelicans in the interior of Florida, including Lake Okeechobee where

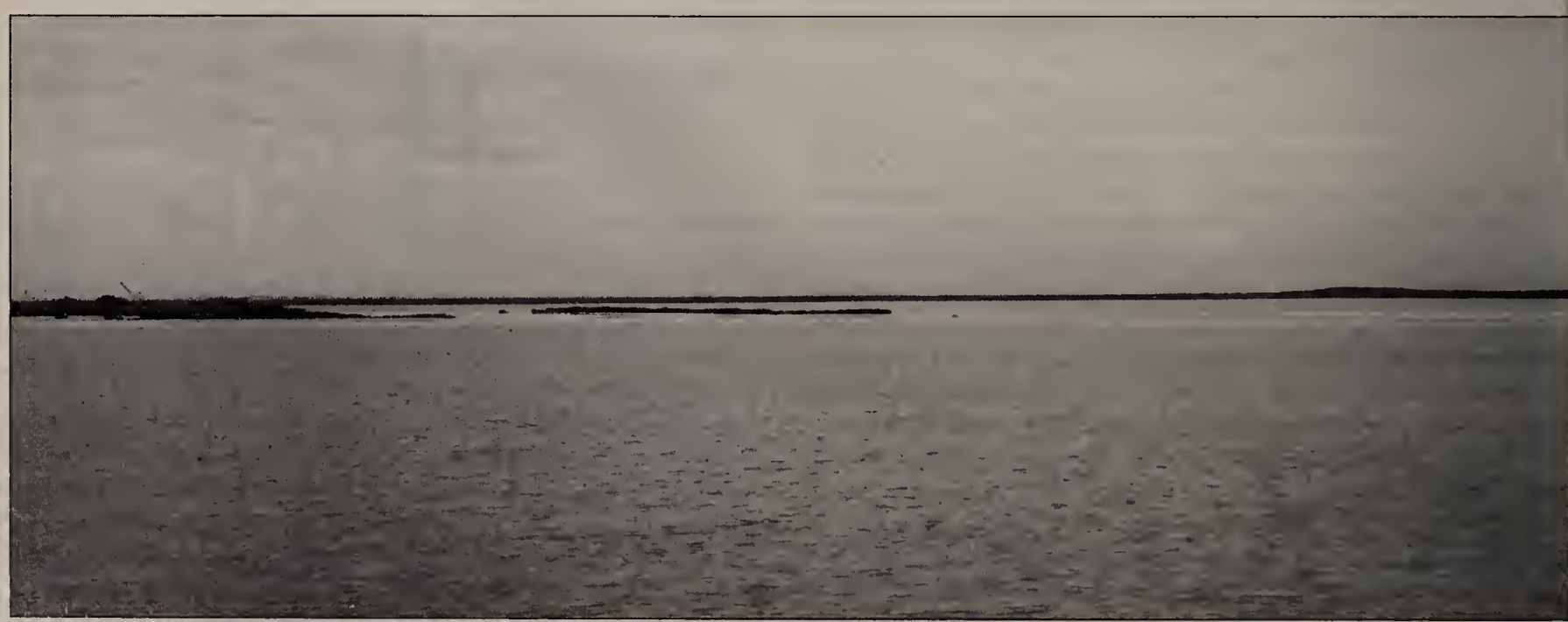

Figure 8. A large, diked, raised active clay settling pond at Kingsford Mines off Doc Durrance Road, ±4 km west of Bradley Junction. This view looks across the impoundment locally named the "Big Pit" toward a sandy flat interspersed with marsh encroaching into the open water. The expansive landscape is typical of such large impoundments where larids, including Royal and Sandwich Terns, forage in the open water. The "Big Pit" and other active impoundments are encircled by firm dirt roads on top of dikes that are easily traveled in dry weather and that provide good opportunities for viewing birds, although permission must be obtained to enter the property.

Figure 9. A closer view of the sandy flat interspersed with marsh encroaching into open water at the "Big Pit." This flat is a favored roosting site for larids, including Royal and Sandwich Terns. Both species were present on this date, including adult Sandwich Terns feeding fish to dependent juveniles approximately three weeks post-fledgling.

as many as 60–70 birds in a flock were present from late winter into summer in the late 1980s, to the increase of coastal populations in Florida that peaked in the late 1980s (Nesbitt 1996). Coastal populations of Brown Pelicans in the Southeast outside Florida also have increased dramatically during the last two decades (Wilkinson et al. 1994). Banding data confirm that in-state and out-of-state sources are responsible for the increase of Brown Pelicans in the interior of Florida, which preceded the breeding-range expansion to Lake Okeechobee in 1991 (Smith and Goguen 1993) although this small pioneering population has not persisted. This suggests that population increases in source areas, and not habitat loss on the coast or habitat change in the interior where birds have primarily occurred at large natural lakes, are responsible for the increase of Brown Pelicans in the interior of Florida. Local breeding populations in south and central Florida (Florida Bay and Tampa Bay) have decreased (see Nesbitt 1996), although statewide populations are still large.

Despite their increase throughout the interior of Florida, the relative scarcity of Brown Pelicans at phosphate mines in the central peninsula probably can be attributed to less favorable habitat. Larger fish that are suitable prey for this plunge-diving piscivorous species may be scarce at clay settling ponds in comparison to prey available in natural freshwater lakes. Double-crested Cormorants *Phalacrocorax auritus* foraging at settling ponds on phosphate mines relied upon small invertebrates as well as small fish (mainly mosquito-fish *Gambusia affinis*), which is unusual (O'Meara et al. 1982). Larger fish were apparently limited for the much smaller piscivorous cormorant. Brown Pelicans also occur on unreclaimed phosphate pits with lakes and reclaimed areas (e.g., Saddle Creek park), but these birds rarely linger there either.

The broad peak of occurrence of Brown Pelicans throughout the interior of Florida remains December through June (Smith and Goguen 1993, this study). However, the seasonal shift from winter to spring since the mid-1980s, based on observational data, indicates that proportionally fewer birds now occur during winter, although recovery data are still predominantly from winter (suggesting higher mortality during this season, at least for immature birds). Other than the shift in timing of occurrence, pelicans are also staying longer (at Lake Okeechobee, Smith and Goguen 1993; away from Lake Okeechobee at natural lakes in the central peninsula where up to four birds have roosted at the same locality for longer than six months, C. Geanangel unpubl. data). A few of these birds have become habituated to handouts of food (C. Geanangel unpubl. data, cf. Laughing Gulls at landfills). Adult pelicans now also occur away from Lake Okeechobee in the interior (first recovery of banded bird in 1978; first observation in 1983), although most pelicans in the interior are immatures (Robertson and Woolfenden

Figure 10. A water-treatment pond adjacent to and below the "Big Pit." The pond serves the active phosphate mine processing-plant in the background. Many terns forage on this pond, including Royal and Sandwich. Terns do not roost here because the pond lacks sandy shorelines.

1992, Nesbitt 1996, this study). These changes suggest that dispersal behavior is developing into more of a pattern of periodic migration of adults rather than just disoriented movements of immatures, especially in spring which corresponds to the breeding season of Brown Pelicans in central and northern Florida.

Nonetheless, most movements of Brown Pelicans into the interior of Florida (excluding Lake Okeechobee) have involved immatures. In the 1930s, banding recoveries of immature Brown Pelicans from the interior of Florida revealed that these birds were from one colony on the central Atlantic coast of Florida (Longstreet and Davis 1936, Longstreet 1945, this study). Subsequent recoveries from the interior also have confirmed that immatures arrive directly from the Gulf Coast, despite the fact that Brown Pelicans from the Atlantic Coast of Florida are generally more migratory than birds along the Gulf Coast (Schreiber and Mock 1988). Carolina-fledged birds also winter both on the Atlantic Coast and in the interior of Florida (Smith and Goguen 1993, Nesbitt 1996, this study). Banding data are biased toward recoveries in the interior of Florida of birds banded as nestlings or fledglings on the Atlantic Coast, as few adults are banded. The considerable variation in the timing of breeding in south and central Florida (winter-spring cycle with some irregularity) compared to the remainder of its range in the Southeast (spring-summer cycle only; Schreiber 1980), and the equivocal and biased evidence from banding recoveries, prevent a more detailed assessment of source populations for Brown Pelicans in the interior of Florida.

Tropical cyclones had a minor impact on observations of three marine-estuarine species in the interior of Florida except for Sandwich Terns away from central Florida, unlike the occurrence of Royal and Sandwich Terns in the interior of southeastern North America north of Florida during some tropical cyclones (Fussell and Allen-Grimes 1980, LeGrand 1990, Brinkley et al. 1997, Brinkley 1999). This difference suggests that some marine-estuarine and other marine species may be undersampled in the interior of Florida during tropical cyclones (McNair unpubl. data). The 113 Sandwich Terns associated with a tropical cyclone can be discounted because it is probably an artifact of coincidence; these birds would have roosted on sandbars among open-water in shallow, abandoned phosphate pits in Polk County since large numbers also roosted at this site on other dates during that autumn (C. Geanangel pers. comm.).

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changing seasons

The Winter Season, 1999–2000:

Warm Weather And Cross-Continental Wonders

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As the ravages of La Niña and global warming draped North America, we were treated to one of the mildest winters on record. Unseasonably warm weather was the norm from coast to coast, from the snowbelt to the sunbelt. As a startling example, consider a 27 December temperature of 68°F (20°C)...in Calgary! Much of the north and east experienced slightly more normal weather in January, before a milder February continued the earlier trend. The balmy temperatures of the early winter lured many birds into a false sense of security, and they attempted to winter much farther north than usual, sometimes with tragic results. Dozens of American Woodcocks, for example, perished during a cold snap in mid-January in southern New Jersey; most were underfed and emaciated.

Even so, a host of less-hardy species was present this winter, some in Regions far outside their normal range. Perhaps in no group was this pattern better exemplified than in the hummingbirds. Because eastern North America generally hosts but one species, hummingbirds are met with careful scrutiny in that half of the continent, particularly after September, when most Ruby-throateds have departed. This mildest of winters produced a plethora of hummer oddities sprinkled across the East, from multiple Broad-taileds in Louisiana to confirmed Black-chinneds in North Carolina and Tennessee, a Broad-billed in Louisiana, and an Allen's in Texas to the more amazing (and well-documented) find of a Calliope in South Carolina. If global warming is real and will occur as quickly as some fatalists predict, the hummingbird show this winter will look tame ten years from now.

GLOBAL WARMING?

A counterintuitive trend in this warm winter was the continued presence of numerous redpolls and other winter finches in the northern states, particularly in the Northeast. Furthermore, the East saw its biggest influx of Rough-legged Hawks in decades, with some 30 reaching Connecticut, various others south to North Carolina, and three reaching Florida, the first of the species documented in that state (Fig. 1). Not to be outdone it would seem, a Snowy Owl pushed southward to Florida (see the Pictorial Highlights), also furnishing a first record for the Sunshine State.

A more ambiguous pattern was the presence of many western wood-warblers in the East, including Audubon's in Massachusetts and Maryland, a Black-throated Gray in Québec, Townsend's in Virginia and Florida, and MacGillivray's in Massachusetts and New York. Whether the warmth had anything to do with the occurrence of these species is debatable and seemingly unlikely, but the warmth probably did allow many warblers to tarry in the unexpectedly favorable clime, increasing the probability for their discovery by birders.

In short, if global warming is occurring or the apparent increased frequency of El Niño events are contributing to changes in species distributions, what exactly can we predict? A simple prediction could be that warm-water seabirds would appear farther north (see Patten 1998). Also, we might safely hypothesize that landbirds that normally winter in the subtropics would extend their wintering range to the north, as might be happening with the hummingbirds mentioned above or with the marked increase of Rufous-capped Warblers (see the cover), Rufous-backed Robins (see the Pictorial Highlights), Streak-backed Orioles, and other "Mexican" species.

But what if a species is showing the opposite pattern? Is it a fluke or does it call into question our very ideas about global warming? A fine example of such an exception is provided by the Yellow-billed Loon. This bird of the high Arctic seemingly expanded its wintering range southward along the Pacific Coast beginning in the mid-1960s (Remsen and Binford 1975). Until the early 1970s, there were but two records away from the Pacific slope, a 1930 partial specimen recovered in New York and a 1944 specimen from Colorado (Phillips 1990). Since the early 1970s, there have been ±150 records for the interior of North America, ranging from inland records from British Columbia and the Pacific states to dozens from the Prairie Provinces, Ontario, and New York south to the Southwest (e.g., Arizona, Texas)

Figure 1. Rough-legged Hawks staged one of their largest incursions into the Northeast in decades. Birds reached far to the south of their normal range in the East, with a few providing the first documented records for Florida, such as this light-morph bird near Zellwood, Orange County, 17 February 2000. Photographed by Kurt A. Radamaker.

Figure 2. Records of the Yellow-billed Loon inland in North America (i.e., away from Pacific Coast). Dark gray signifies >3 records, light gray signifies 13 records, and white signifies no records. Note the sharp increase in both the 1980s and 1990s, especially to the south and east.

and Southeast (e.g., Tennessee, Arkansas).

Interestingly, there has been no trend for states and provinces to record their first (or first for the interior) since 1970—additions have not become more frequent in recent years (runs test; $ts = -0.74$, $P > 0.10$). Instead, firsts were recorded rather randomly in the past 30 years. Although there are alternative interpretations, I see this random pattern as an indication that increased observer effort has had little effect on the apparent increase in Yellow-billed Loons (*cf.* Remsen and Binford, Phillips 1990). Even so, the number of individuals recorded away from the Pacific Coast has increased significantly in the past two decades (Fig. 2; $\chi^2 = 22.6$, $P < 0.001$). It would thus seem that the range of this Arctic species is slowly drifting southward, contradicting our notions about global warming.

Perhaps the Yellow-billed Loon is an anomaly, yet as noted, the warm winter of 1999–2000 brought many northern birds far to the south, whether the Snowy Owl in Florida or the redpoll invasion. Long-term population increases, decreases, expansions, and contractions are real in many species, but by their very nature detection of them takes time. We need to resist the temptation to proffer pat answers to complex questions, based on short-term weather events.

PREDICTING PATTERNS

Despite the cautions raised above, one of the great benefits to publishing records and analyses of avian distribution is that is allows us to make predictions about what should occur. We have all seen the multitude of "The Next Bird for X" type articles (e.g., Brinkley 2000), yet there are more fundamental predictions we can make and, I daresay, more important questions we can ask. A stellar example of the beauty of method comes from the Southern Pacific Coast Region during winter 1999–2000. Within the past decade, it was learned that the Gray Vireo winters exclusively in "forests" of Elephant Trees (*Bursera microphylla*) in Sonora and Baja California, where it subsists almost entirely on the fruits of this plant (Bates 1992).

Armed with this information, Philip Unitt and a team from the San Diego Natural History Museum searched the only Elephant Tree forest in the United States, for Unitt had reasoned that the Gray Vireo may well winter there. On 4–5 December, they discovered at least five Gray Vireos in a remote portion of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the first of this species known to winter in California. Full details of this remarkable discovery will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Western Birds.*

How many other discoveries await the intrepid and thoughtful field ornithologist? There are doubtless many, whether extending known breeding or wintering ranges, elucidating novel migratory pathways, or uncovering heretofore unknown distributional patterns. Regarding the latter, just consider that we do not know the winter range of the Timberline Sparrow (*Spizella breweri taverneri*), a subspecies recently discovered breeding south to central Montana by Brett Walker and one which may warrant species status (Klicka et al. 1999). We might reasonably predict that it lies to the south of the winter range of the nominate Brewer's Sparrow, given standard leapfrog patterns of distribution (e.g., Remsen 1984), but does its winter range reach northward into the southern United States? And just where do Kirtland's Warblers spend the winter? We know it is not on the main islands of the Bahamas, contrary to dogma, but it is assuredly somewhere in the West Indies. As the Glossy Ibis continues its westward march and the White-faced Ibis its eastward march, are there now sites where both species breed? If so, is there any hybridization? I predict that the answer is "yes" to these last two questions...

"NEW" SPECIES

It is a sad, troubling fact among most birders that taxa are ignored unless they can be counted on some list. Somewhere along the way, birders (and, to be fair, many conservation biologists and wildlife managers; see Rojas 1992) lost track of what data are important. We tend to attach a great deal more importance to a species than to a subspecies (or morph), yet the birds themselves make no such judgement—nor do the bulldozers that further destroy their habitat, regardless of how we treat the taxonomy.

When a study is published wherein various taxa are merged into a single species, those taxa invariably receive far less attention. In California, for example, the Atlantic Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) was formerly a rare but nearly annual winter visitor to the coast among large flocks of Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*). I say "formerly" with no small amount of chagrin, for since the two were lumped and became merely Brant, there have been virtually no reports of *B. b. hrota* in the state (Patten and Campbell 1992). Frankly, even though habitat loss has pushed the Brant's wintering range to the south, I doubt that *B. b. hrota* stopped occurring in California; rather, there is simply no interest now that a "Brant is a Brant." In a similar vein, how many birders look at juncoes now? Most seem happy to call them all Dark-eyed, although rumblings of potential splits have renewed some interest in the group (the same thing is happening with Fox Sparrows).

This insidious problem works in the other direction as well. With the split of the Rufous-sided Towhee into the Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and Spotted Towhee (*P. maculatus*), we are now learning that Spotted Towhees are annual in eastern North America. This winter saw reports from as far east as Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Newfoundland. I doubt that there has been a true increase in records—we are merely seeing an increase in per-

ceived importance. Conversely, along with a few Eastern Towhees in eastern Colorado, an area with several prior records, a rambunctious male reached southeastern Arizona. I suspect that only now will observers in the West seriously consider the Eastern Towhee as a potential vagrant and state-list addition, and thus worthy of field identification.

Similarly, reporting wayward Cassin's, Plumbeous, and Blue-headed Vireos has become all the rage. Yet field identification of these birds remains mired in difficultly, with many overlapping characters and many birds with ambiguous features. Birders who ignore subspecies are ill-prepared to identify these same taxa after a taxonomic split. In some cases we are fortunate to have in-hand a paper about field identification of the subspecies (e.g., Heindel 1996), even if tentative. But in other cases we are left to learn an identification from scratch, making the expected mistakes along the way. How many birders are aware of the black-backed subspecies of the Spotted Towhee from the Pacific Northwest, *P. m. oreganus*? Some individuals of this taxon can essentially lack dorsal spotting, or at least appear to lack it when viewed in the field. This subspecies moves southward in winter, with specimen records to southern California. How does one ensure that an apparently unspotted towhee is an Eastern? Had we always paid attention to subspecies, this question would be moot. Instead, I ask it in earnest, so that we are not besieged with erroneous records of Eastern Towhees.

WHOOPER SWANS AND OTHER PROBLEM SPECIES

It is perhaps too late for me to avoid the title of curmudgeon, but if I have thus far, my ruminations here may seal my fate. I was both fascinated and disheartened to read an S.A. in the Middlewestern Prairie report as Ken Brock lucidly told a tale of multiple Whooper Swans in the Region, with individuals appearing in Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana. He further noted an adult captured in North Dakota this same winter. Lest anyone get too excited about this latest slew of Eurasian vagrants, Brock quickly noted that the natural occurrence of each of these individuals was doubtful at best. He cited the known escaped birds from a breeder on Long Island, New York, that eventually surfaced at the Ipswich and Plum Island area of Massachusetts (Nikula 1995), where they subsequently bred (Ellison and Martin 1999). He did not cite a similar instance from Maryland (Johnson and Sladen 1983), which only adds fuel to the fire. In any event, this group from Long Island and its offspring were later fingered as the likely source for records from Labrador, Québec (see David et al. 1999), New England, and Pennsylvania.

I was disheartened by my own musings on this scene. Brock noted that there is a dearth of published records from farther west, although he cited persistent reports from Minnesota over the past decade, a sighting from Missouri that was largely dismissed, and a captive pair that fledged one cygnet in Illinois. Add to these reports a recent adult in Saskatchewan (Koes and Taylor 1999) and multiple records from southeastern Oregon (St. Louis 1995) and northern California (Howell and Pyle 1997). Because the Whooper Swan is semi-regular in western Alaska (mainly on the outer Aleutian Islands) as a stray from Asia, records from the Pacific States have generally been considered to be of naturally occurring vagrants. However, I grow concerned when I review this species' spread in the East—from apparently feral stock—especially when I note that the much of the East is geographically closer to the Pacific States than is western Alaska. As Brock noted, "Some biologists have suggested that Whoopers may duplicate the invasion pattern of Mute Swans; consequently, the population warrants monitoring." We now have Eurasian Collared-Doves reaching the West from their burgeoning non-native populations in the East (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999). And need I remind anyone that European Starlings and House Sparrows reached the West from escaped/introduced populations in the East? Am I suggesting that the Whooper Swan has not reached the West Coast as a natural vagrant? In truth, I feel that the balance of evidence could be reasonably argued either way. However, it would not surprise me to learn that all birds from the coterminous United States had captive origins.

Ornithology, like all fields of science, is a human endeavor. It is thus fraught with decidedly human problems, not the least of which is emotional attachment to our own views or biases. We will never learn the truth about avian distributions if we allow ourselves to succumb to the "birds have wings" or "it looked wild" type of arguments. Conversely, we will learn nothing if we dub all oddities as "obvious escapes." Instead, we should be dispassionate, weighing carefully all data so that we may draw a reasoned conclusion—and we remember that reasonable people can reach different conclusions with the same data. It is not enough to note the absence of bands or cage wear, although we should look hard and objectively for both. A bird escaped for even a short amount of time may have molted into fine feather, negating that criterion. Further, escaped birds will find the local habitat most suitable for them. If I put a duck in a cage for a year and then let it go, it will not have forgotten how to swim or how to find a pond with adequate food. But we must bear in mind that many genuine vagrants have appeared vast distances from their known range. Just witness the Black-headed Gull, banded in Finland that returned to winter in north-central Texas!

We therefore should always consider if a particular species has a reasonable chance of reaching a particular region. Is it migratory? Is its range geographically close? We need to examine whether there are intermediate records or a pattern of occurrence and whether the species is commonly kept in captivity. There will always be a first record, sometimes far afield, and it may fall under suspicion accordingly. But when we remember the greater good we are trying to serve, it is a small price to pay, particularly when we recall the simple fact that any record can be reevaluated if a pattern of occurrence develops (e.g., the Ruddy Ground-Dove in the Southwest). To that end, we should always report and document all such potential strays, even if their natural occurrence seems unlikely to us at first blush (e.g, the recent Black-backed Oriole in southwestern California). We should consider labeling such birds, at least initially, as "natural occurrence uncertain" rather than tagging them with the negatively loaded label of "exotics," although some birds clearly will be exotics, like those Chilean Flamingos I saw at the Salton Sea a few weeks ago. Gathering additional data and scrutinizing it with an objective eye will yield the best results, and provide us all with a noble goal.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to P. A. Buckley, Richard A. Erickson, and Matthew T. Heindel for offering excellent comments on a draft of the manuscipt and to Greg W. Lasley for some timely information.

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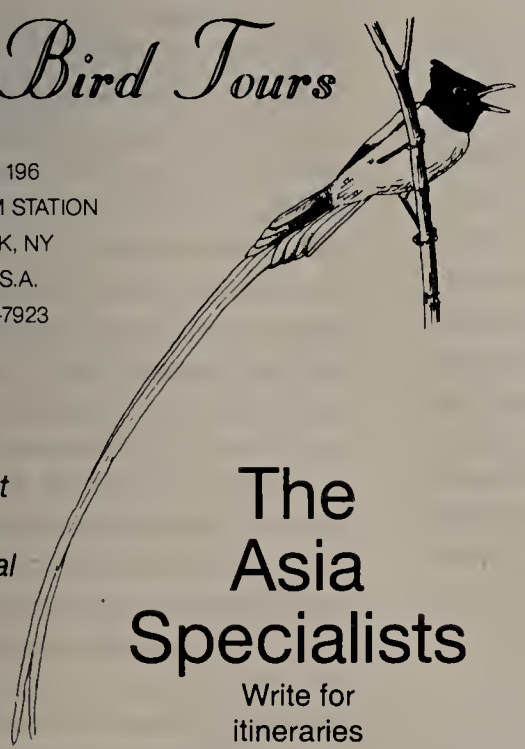

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Bharatpur
4-27 January

Forest Owlet Pretour
31 December-5 January

SRI LANKA
26 January-12 February

PHILIPPINES
Luzon, Mindanao,
Cebu, Palawan,
Bohol, Negros
2 February-5 March

VIETNAM
North, South
8 March-1 April

BHUTAN
West to East Traverse
6-29 April

CHINA #1
NW China (Xinjiang)
21 May-6 June

CHINA #2
Tibet Traverse
4 June-4 July

MALAYSIA
Malaya, Borneo (Mt. Kinabalu)
5-27 May

INDONESIA #1
Sulawesi
17 July-5 August

INDONESIA #2
Greater Sundas
Java, Bali
5-26 August

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

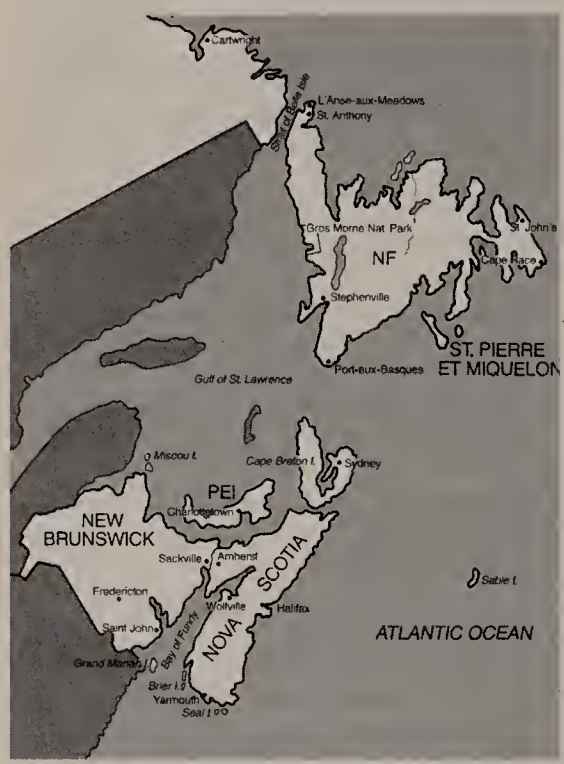
Abbreviations used in the names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenal or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

atlantic provinces



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Southern extremities of the Region continue to warm in winter, with heavy rain and even severe electrical storms now commonplace, even in February. Waterfowl and shorebirds are the main beneficiaries of global warming here. Among landbirds, such species as Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Winter Wren, American Pipit, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet seem poised to benefit. Except in Labrador, winter was a mild affair until early January, when snow and rain arrived to clean out half-hardy laggards. Many wayward warblers survived until early January in Nova Scotia, but a week of rain and sub-freezing temperatures did in most by 7 Jan, except for a few hardy Pine Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats at feeders. Coverage was good from all provinces.

This marks my first regional report, having just taken over from irrepressible Ian McLaren, winter-season editor in good standing since 1988. Always the first to pounce upon new developments in the field, Ian still leads the pack of ever-increasing Maritime birders. His insight, wit, brevity, and wisdom will be missed in these pages, but he can still be read in *Nova Scotia Birds*. Thanks also to faithful Roger Etcheberry on St. Pierre et Miquelon for his timely and informative reports over many years from that fascinating little chunk of France. For extensive use of New Brunswick CBC data, I am indebted to David Christie, and to the Nova Scotia Bird Society for data from that province. And lastly, to all who have ever taken the time to send in a report, a tip of the hat; you deserve it!

Abbreviations: A.P. (*Acadian Peninsula, NB*); A.V. (*Annapolis Valley, NS*); A.V.P. (*Avalon Peninsula, NF*); C.B.I. (*Cape Breton Island, NS*); C.C.E.R.C. (*Cyril Coldwell Eagle & Raptor Count*); C.S.I. (*Cape Sable Island, NS*); G.M.I. (*Grand Manan Island, NB*); H.R.M. (*Halifax Regional Municipality, NS*); S.B.I. (*Sable Island, NS*); S.P.M. (*St. Pierre et Miquelon, France*).

GREBES THROUGH HERONS

Red-necked Grebes increased at the Cape of Miquelon, S.P.M., from 40 on 9 Jan to 460 on 23 Feb. Lingering Pied-billed Grebes were at Hampton Marsh, NB, 26 Dec; at C.S.I. to 7 Jan; and late January at S.B.I. One in St. Pierre harbour 26 Dec–4 Feb was a first winter occurrence. Northern Fulmars stay offshore, except when blown in; most notably 1619 on 18 Dec from St. Brides, NF, exiting Placentia Bay the first two hours after dawn (PL). One at Point Prim, PEI, 27 Dec was exceptional for Northumberland Strait (E. Townsend). Northern Gannets tarried, with record highs on NS CBCs, the bulk from C.S.I., where 596 were counted 18 Dec. A few Double-crested Cormorants winter in the Maritimes, but two on the A.V.P. and at least four at S.P.M. were pushing the envelope. So was an imm. Little Blue Heron at Arcadia, NS, 19–20 Dec, and Cattle Egrets 15 Nov–20 Dec at G.M.I. and 7 Jan at Blanche, NS. An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron at G.M.I. 28 Jan was the latest on record for New Brunswick, while a recently-dead adult was found nearby 4 Feb (BED).

VULTURES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Peak counts of Turkey Vultures were six near St. Stephen, NB, 6 Dec and 12 at Brier I., NS, 20 Jan (CAH). Three singles from PEI during the period may have involved some duplication, but they represented the first winter reports for the garden province. Two well-described "Greenland" **Greater White-fronted Geese** were found in NS, one around Lanark, *Antigonish*, from 8–28 Dec (RFL) and another on the Wolfville dykelands 28 Feb–1 Mar (RST). Brant began trickling in to their two main spring staging areas in the region in late Jan, with 3000 estimated at both C.S.I. and G.M.I. by late Feb. PEI took the winter Gadwall sweepstakes with 18 at Cymbria 19 Feb (RCO). A hen Am. Wigeon at St. Pierre harbour from 22 Jan was a first winter occurrence. Eurasian Wigeon included five from NS, eight from NF (St. John's), and one 18–26 Feb at Murray Harbour, PEI (ERM). Am. Black Ducks had a good breeding season, reflected in high totals on CBCs in the region: 20,974 in NS; 9549 in NB; and 572 at S.P.M. 18 Dec. A total of 318 N. Pintail at St. John's 26 Dec eclipsed all other regional totals combined. Fifty Green-winged Teal throughout the period at St. John's contained at least eight of the Eurasian variety. Tufted Duck is becoming almost regular, with seven each from NS and NF and a single drake returning for its 5th winter at St. John, NB, 27 Dec. Fine concentrations of Greater Scaup were 1200 in Lingan Bay, C.B.I., 8 Jan (CAM) and 5000 at Pictou 23 Feb (KJM). Lesser Scaup numbers were above average, with 40 on the Fredericton, NB, CBC 19 Dec. and 101 on NS CBCs. Common Eider was indeed common, with 7362 on NS CBCs, 4787 in NB, and ±6100 during a special aerial census around S.P.M. 26 Feb (L. Gaspard). Harlequin Duck is rebounding slowly but surely from pre-1990 lows, with flocks of 50+ birds reported from White Head I., G.M.I., Prospect, NS, and near Jones Harbour, NS. Many more wintering areas remain to be checked along Nova Scotia's e. shore. Chaleur Bay is Regional Barrow's Goldeneye headquarters, with 266 on the Dalhousie, NB, CBC 2 Jan. A record 238 Hooded Mergansers were found on NS CBCs. A female near Gander, NF, 13 Feb and a pair at Port Blandford 3–13 Feb were especially unusual (*fide* BMt). Ruddy Ducks persisted, with two at SBI 2–5 Dec; nine at C.S.I. 1 Dec; six at Moncton, NB, 18 Dec; nine on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC 19 Dec; two to 19 Feb at Trenton, NS, and one at St. John's, NF, 11 Nov–2 Jan.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A special Bald Eagle survey in the A.V. tallied 580 birds 13 Feb, 59% adult, 43% imm., and 9% unknown (C.C.E.R.C.). Single Broad-winged Hawks were at South Bar, C.B.I., 21 Dec (CAM), Halifax-Dartmouth CBC 19 Dec (Chris Majka), and on the Broad Cove CBC (imm.) 29 Dec. (J.

Hirtle). An impressive 164 Red-tailed Hawks were counted around Wolfville, NS, 13 Feb (C.C.E.R.C.). Six reports of Golden Eagles in NS, from the H.R.M. eastward, likely represented at least three imms. 14 Dec–22 Feb (v.o.). Resident were two Gyrfalcons along Chaleur Bay between Campbellton and Dalhousie, NB. Reports of wintering Peregrine Falcons came from G.M.I., the A.V., and the A.V.P., with an outlier from S.B.I. 10 Jan (ZOL).

SA 2000, Year of the Ptarmigan: a massive invasion of Willow Ptarmigan into central Québec and Labrador arrived in early December. Single flocks of 250–300 birds were reported around Wabush-Labrador City in Jan and Feb (CDA). Total numbers are impossible to come by, but in w. Labrador alone at least 250,000 were thought to be present (BED). In the east the invasion came later and was over by late Feb around Happy Valley-Goose Bay. A few Rock Ptarmigan were reported shot around Esker, about 100 km n. of Wabush. The last time similar numbers were noted in w. Labrador was 1990, which agrees well with the reported 10-year population cycle of the species. Many thousands ended up in stew pots, but many more did not, and ptarmigan-watchers in the Region have the year 2010 firmly in mind.

A Virginia Rail was found in a weakened state at Birchtown, NS, 16 Feb (JON). Two Am. Coots in St. John, NB, 24 Feb (K. MacIntosh) provided the first successful wintering records for the province. One was at St. Pierre through 6 Jan and another at S.B.I. 30 Jan. A Sandhill Crane was present around Antigonish Landing, NS, into early Dec (RFL). A **Northern Lapwing** was well seen and described during the S.P.M. CBC 18 Dec (M. Dérible). Black-bellied Plovers wintered mostly at C.S.I., with 25 on the CBC 18 Dec.

A Greater Yellowlegs was at Wolfville 19 Dec, whereas three were near Yarmouth, NS, 2–8 Jan (MUN). A Lesser Yellowlegs was also there 10 Jan, perhaps the individual present in Sackville, NB, until at least 6 Dec. A Willet at White Head, G.M.I., 22 Feb provided a first winter record for NB and may have arrived with the Killdeer flight. An imm. **Upland Sandpiper** near Sydney 2 Dec (JUM) was a good find. The largest flock of Ruddy Turnstones was 15 near Cape Race, NF, 30 Dec. Concentrations of Red Knots were 11 on the S.P.M. CBC 18 Dec; nine at usually ice-bound Montague, PEI, 7 Jan (ERM); 18 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., 24 Jan; and 40 at C.S.I. 19 Feb. Sanderling headquarters in the Region is S.B.I., where Zoe Lucas found 260 on 9 Feb. Elsewhere, 13 were at Grand Barachois, S.P.M. and 116 at C.S.I., both 18 Dec, and 100 were at Port L'Hebert, NS, 5 Feb. At least five White-rumped Sandpipers were at C.S.I. throughout. Dunlins were spread thin, with 20 at C.S.I. 18 Dec; 20 at Port L'Hebert 5 Feb; one at SBI 9 Feb; 24 at Port Joli, NS, 28 Feb; and one throughout at Maces Bay, NB. Record-late for the province was a Long-billed Dowitcher at Marsh Creek, Saint John, NB, 9–21 Dec (M. Cormier). The last reported Am. Woodcock was a roadkill at C.S.I. 22 Jan. Three Red Phalaropes were off White Head, G.M.I., 14 Dec.

SA An exceptional mid-winter flight of Killdeer was detected in late January from the A.V.P. to the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. First reports came from S.P.M., with three 23 Jan, and ≤six late in the month; followed by six on the A.V.P. 24–28 Jan, 35+ in NS, most along the coast from the H.R.M. e. to C.B.I., but with 10 at S.B.I. 29–30 Jan. Their arrival coincided with passage of a major storm throughout the region 20–21 Jan, the third savage nor'easter of the winter.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A first-winter **Great Skua** was the bird of the season 20 Jan–3 Feb at St. John's (M&C Schwitters), furnishing only the second winter record for Newfoundland. It was captured 3 Feb, having an injured wing, and hospitalized. During its stay at Quidi Vidi L. it scavenged dead gulls and even killed a Great Black-backed Gull. Single Common Gulls were at Halifax and Pictou, NS, St. Peters, PEI, and Rocky Harbour, NF. The three throughout at St. John's were an adult, a first-winter, and a second-winter. A critically-examined adult **Thayer's Gull** at Pier 9, Halifax Harbour 15 Jan+ (F. Lavender et. al.) provided a first confirmed record for the province, while a second ad. was found at Kentville, NS, 26 Jan (RST). An ad. **Yellow-legged Gull** (race *michahellis*) 24 Feb at St. John's (BMt) was confirmed by European expert Martin Garner (from photos). Close to annual in St. John's, it is still a major North American rarity. There were 7–8 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on NS CBCs in late Dec, with 12–15 identifiably different individuals at St. John's. The only Ivory Gull outside NF was an imm. at St. Andrews, NB, 9 Feb (T. Dean, K. Neilsen). No large numbers of Dovekies were reported in the region, but in Newfoundland other alcid numbers were thought to be usual, with maybe a few more Atlantic Puffins than normal in Dec and early Jan, perhaps due to warm weather (BMt). The newly-divined winter feeding concentrations of Razorbills in the Bay of Fundy yielded land-based counts of 32,000 at G.M.I. 5 Dec and 10,000 from a boat 4 Feb (BED).

A Mourning Dove found dead at Wabush, Labrador 26 Jan (after surviving a month of -30° to -40°C) may have died due to lack of drinking water rather than hypothermia (CDA). Another was still alive at a feeder in nearby Labrador City 11 Feb. The only significant Snowy Owl presence in the region were 3–4 throughout at The Hawk, C.S.I., subsisting on a mini-plague of rats (MUN). Northern Hawk Owls were above average in Newfoundland following two summers of high vole numbers (BMt). An adequately-described (and sketched) Long-eared Owl persisted at frigid Labrador City from 29 Dec–4 Feb (N. Genge), well n. of the species' range in either summer or winter. At least 35 Belted Kingfishers were found on NS CBCs, with a high of 10 on the Montague, PEI, count 2 Jan and one e. to Langlade, S.P.M., 18 Dec. Fifteen Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at NB feeders after a good fall flight, including three at North Head, G.M.I., and a male n. to the A.P.; there were but two in NS and one in PEI. There were a record 56 N. Flickers on the St. John's CBC 26 Dec, with 13 reported over the winter at S.P.M.

TITMICE THROUGH WAXWINGS

It took 17 years, but NB got its second through fifth confirmed Tufted Titmice, with singles at Chamcook, St. Stephen, St. George, Woodstock, and Hartland (*fide* DSC). White-breasted Nuthatch was widely-remarked upon at Maritime feeders, after a significant fall flight from New England and Québec. An undocumented N. Wheatear was at Fourchu, CBI, 11 Feb (J. MacInnis, *fide* CAM). Single **Townsend's Solitaires** came to earth at Halifax 10 Dec (*fide* AAM); Debert, NS, 29 Dec–20 Jan (FLS, EPS); and Riverside-Albert, NB, 13 Dec–16 Mar (DSC). Remarkably, the NB bird was likely back for a third winter, despite being missed in 1998–1999. Three **Varied Thrushes** included one in Lower Sackville, NS, 23 Jan–20 Feb (C. Stevens); one near Fredericton, NB, 7 Feb+ (N. Coy); and the third near St. John's, also 7 Feb+ (*fide* BMt). Northern Mockingbird had a

good Maritime breeding season, leading to CBC highs of 14 in NB and 43 in NS, including 17 at Wolfville, NS, 19 Dec and four at St. John's, NF, 29 Dec. Hardy flocks of Am. Pipits were 25 at Pubnico, NS, 6 Jan and 15 at St. Pierre 9 Jan. Bohemian Waxwings invaded in unprecedented thousands, with early winter flocks of up to 5000 in St. John's and 2000 in Halifax-Dartmouth, NS. They generally outnumbered Cedar Waxwings by about 10:1.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An Orange-crowned Warbler to 31 Jan at St. Pierre (P. Boez) provided a first winter record for the islands. A Nashville Warbler at Halifax in Dec appeared to be of the western race *ridwayi* (IAM). Yellow-throated Warblers survived to 4 Dec at St. Pierre, 16 Dec at Kentville, NS, and 22 Dec at St. John's. Prairie Warblers were at St. John, NB, 13 Dec (K. Allard) and Schooner Pond, C.B.I., 8 Jan (JUM). Black-and-white Warblers lasted until 26 Dec at St. John's (PL) and, surprisingly, 2 Jan at Montague, PEI (CBC). An Ovenbird was on the Halifax-Dartmouth CBC 19 Dec. A Wilson's Warbler was at Wolfville, NS, to 12 Dec (BLF). A record 18 Yellow-breasted Chats were found on NS CBCs, with outliers at Shippagan, NB, to 7 Dec (*fide* MDA) and 11 Jan at St. John's (JW et al.). A male **Western Tanager** was at Barrington, NS, 5–10 Dec (*fide* MUN). A **Spotted Towhee** at Cornerbrook, NF, 15–18 Dec (L. Butler et al.) provided a provincial first. An E. Towhee survived the winter at a feeder in Millertown, cen. NF (D. Burton et al.), about as far east as it could go. An imm. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Halifax 19 Dec+ (P. Chalmers et al.) was about the fifth for NS.

A strong fall flight from the west allowed the N. Cardinal to consolidate its expanding permanent range in the Region, now extending n. and e. to Victoria and Kings counties in NB and e. to the H.R.M. in NS. Single E. Meadowlarks were at Kingsport, NS, and Castalia Marsh, G.M.I., both 22 Feb; a third was at St. John's to the end of Jan. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Murray River, PEI, 15 Feb (ERM), Donkin, CBI, in Dec (CAM), and a pair at Moncton, NB, 18 Dec+. Baltimore Orioles were in good supply at feeders throughout Nova Scotia into early winter, but despite TLC, most eventually died. Seven at a feeder in Howie Centre, C.B.I., in early Dec is indicative. A **Bullock's Oriole** at St. Peters, PEI, 6–10 Dec (ERM, RCO) was photographed for a first provincial record. Pine Grosbeaks were reasonably common in the Region, where many took to sunflower at feeders, perhaps because of the dearth of Mountain Ash berries caused by last summer's drought. Red Crossbills were in short supply, but many remarked on their presence at feeders, such as 18 at Salisbury, NB, 9 Dec (C. Colpitts). White-winged Crossbill numbers were down 90% on regional CBCs after having depleting the enormous spruce cone crop of 1998–1999. Some came to feeders. Common Redpolls smothered the Region: up from 33 on NS CBCs last winter to 11,000+ this winter and 13,287 on NB CBCs. Judging from reports, at least 1:100 was a Hoary Redpoll in NB, 1:500 in Nova Scotia, and as high as 1:20 in w. Labrador. For the most part, Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches bailed out ahead of the engulfing redpoll horde, but numbers were up on the A.V.P., where rare a decade ago.

EXOTICS

A Long-tailed Rosefinch (*Uragus sibiricus*) discovered at a St. George, NB, feeder 2 Jan remained throughout the period. It is a southern Siberian species commonly kept as a cagebird, especially in Europe.

Observers (sub-regional editors in boldface): **Todd Boland**, Calvin Brennan, **David Christie**, Ray Cooke, Brian Dalzell, **Marcel David**, Cheryl Davis, **Fred Dobson, Roger Etcheberry**, Bernard Forsyth, **Sylvia Fullerton**, Carl Haycock, **Andrew Horn, Richard Knapton, Randy Lauff**, Paul Linegar, Zoe Lucas, **Bruce Mactavish** (BMt), Eric Marcum, **Blake Maybank** (BMy), **Dan McAskill** (DJM), **Ian McLaren, David McCorquodale**, Kenneth McKenna, **Angus McLean**, Hugh Metcalfe (JUM), **Eric Mills**, Cathy Murrant, Murray Newall, Johnny Nickerson, Fran Spalding, Edgar Spalding, Richard Stern, John Wells.

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It was a short winter, with most of the Region experiencing very mild conditions until about mid-January, while the first signs of spring were already obvious as early as the third week of February. As expected in such circumstances, many species lingered at record-late dates and there were unusual concentrations of waterfowl well into December and even into January.

In reference to rarities, they had their origins from the four cardinal points. Three Varied Thrushes, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, and a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch came from the West, one or two Fieldfares from the East, as well as a Painted Bunting and a Purple Gallinule from the South. From the north, a major invasion of Willow Ptarmigans was experienced on the Lower North Shore of the St. Lawrence and in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean regions.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Although not unprecedented in the Region, it is worthy of mention that our only wintering Com. Loons were far from the southwest: two overwintered in Alma (S. Boivin), while four were still in Les Escoumins 9 Jan, with one remaining there until at least 26 Feb (CA, CG). A Pied-billed Grebe in Contrecoeur 21 Feb onward was probably an early migrant (Y. Tardif). Several records of Great Blue Heron also originated away from the sw., as shown by singles in Jonquière 1 Jan (C. Simard et al., J. Tanguay), Biencourt 8 Jan (C. Tardif, *fide* RP), Chandler 10 Jan (LP. Luce), and Matapédia 2 Feb (C. Pitre). In the south-

west, one overwintered in Bécancour in the warm waters thrown out from a thermal power station (m.ob.), while one was noted briefly in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 4 Feb (M. Cournoyer). One of the most unexpected events of the season was a Green Heron found on the Cowansville CBC 18 Dec, the latest ever in the Region by more than three weeks.

For the second consecutive winter, Tundra Swans appeared in Feb; this time a flock of five adults visited Sainte-Barbe 27 Feb onward (AH, m.ob.). Late Greater White-fronted Geese included one in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu until 10 Dec (m.ob.) and one killed in Cacouna 20 Dec (P. Pettigrew, *fide* S. Rhéaume). Snow Geese lingered much later than usual, with 10,000 still in Victoriaville 16 Dec (CR) and 500 in Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle 3 Jan (LS). Wintering birds included one in Auclair, *Lower St. Lawrence*, throughout the winter (M. Beaulieu), six in Victoriaville for part of the winter (JD), seven in Sainte-Foy 22 Feb (P. Darisse), and one in Lejeune, *Lower St.Lawrence*, 22 Feb (R. Pelletier). In the last two cases, the possibility of early migrants cannot be ruled out. Because the Ross's Goose is becoming a regular component of our avifauna, new record-late dates are set almost annually; this year, a new Regional record-late date was established 16 Dec in Victoriaville (CR). Good numbers of Canada Geese were present in the southwest until mid-Jan, but most disappeared afterwards. A small group remained in Chandler throughout the winter (M. Larrivée, m.ob.). An Am. Wigeon encountered in Chandler 9–13 Jan represented the latest by almost two months for the Gaspé Peninsula (MC et al.). The discovery of a flock of 17 Greater Scaup wintering in Baie-Sainte-Catherine was a notable event (J. F. Rousseau). There was an interesting collection of hybrid ducks in Feb in Côte-Sainte-Catherine: a N. Pintail × Mallard for most of the month (E. Samson, A. Lacasse, PB), a Hooded Merganser × Com. Goldeneye on the 6th (PB), and a Barrow's × Com. Goldeneye on the 12th (PB), not to mention Mallard × Am. Black Ducks.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Single Turkey Vultures found in Sainte-Flavie 28 Dec (G. Michaud) and Laval 20 Jan (C. Aubut) were worthy of mention. An Osprey in Bassin, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 2 Jan set a new late date for the Region (DGG, CAG). An imm. Golden Eagle in Zec Onatchiway, n. of Chicoutimi, 7 Jan, was a remarkable find (S. Denault et al.). Bald Eagles were widely reported, especially in the s. part of the Region. A N. Harrier in Chandler 25 Jan was noteworthy (MC). Gyrfalcons numbered 14, a good Regional total.

Willow Ptarmigans staged a major invasion ne. of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint Jean area and on the lower North Shore. A few birds reached urban areas of the Saguenay region in Feb (*fide* GS). Curiously, no birds were reported for the Abitibi region. Helped by a series of mild winters, Wild Turkeys are now thriving in extreme s. Quebec; a count of 150 in two flocks was remarkable in Hemmingford 29 Jan (JMB, DD).

An ad. Purple Gallinule freshly killed (probably by a dog) was discovered in Pointe-au-Père 9 Dec (S. Tremblay, *fide* J. Larivée), setting a new record-late date for the Region. Depicting our short winter, two Killdeer were still in Boischatel 19 Dec (P. Otis, JL), while one was already returning in Les Escoumins 27 Feb (L. Messely et al.). Record-late shorebirds for the Region included a Ruddy Turnstone in Gros-Cap 10 Dec (JV) and three Sanderlings in Grande-Entrée 28 Dec (V. Gauthier), both in *Iles de la Madeleine*. Wintering Purple Sandpipers are now a regular feature in Baie des Chaleurs and on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence estuary, where a notable flock of 450 was encountered in Baie-Sainte-Catherine 9 Jan (R. Bisson et al.). Wintering Com. Snipe included one in La Pocatière 22 Jan (B. Desmeules) and one in Sainte-Félicité, *Lower St. Lawrence*, 22 Feb (D. Desjardins).

Late jaegers included single imm. Pomarines in Lévis 2 Dec (JL) and Les Escoumins 3 Dec (CA), and single Parasitics in Saint-Godefroi 3 Dec (EA) and Les Escoumins 4 Dec (CG, CA). A Regional record-late ad. Little Gull lingered in Pasbébiac until 17 Dec (EA). Mew Gulls continued to infiltrate the Region, with two ad. of one of the European subspecies in Les Escoumins 3 Dec (CA, CG), while two first-winter birds visited Dorval 23 Dec (BB). An imm. Ivory Gull in Paspébiac 17 Dec represented one of very few records in the northeast this winter (EA). An ad. Nelson's Gull (Herring × Glaucous Gull hybrid) 31 Jan and a third-winter bird 2 Feb were both discovered in Les Escoumins (CA, CG). A Black-legged Kittiwake in Les Escoumins 20 Jan represented the latest ever for the Region (CG, CA). Two unidentified terns turned up in Gros-Cap, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 10 Dec, an extraordinarily late date for any tern (JV). A Com. Murre in Les Escoumins 28 Dec was also late (CA). Seldom reported in midwinter in *Iles de la Madeleine*, single Thick-billed Murres appeared in Ile de l'Est 4 Feb (JV, DGG) and Havre-aux-Basques 26 Dec (DGG, CAG).

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Snowy Owls made a poor showing in s. Québec this season. The only reports of Great Gray Owl were singles in Kettle I., *Gatineau*, 20 Dec (P. Renaud), Lac-Saint Charles 21 Jan (JMG), Ile Bizard 29 Jan–5 Feb (C. Lamoureux, m. ob.), l'Anse-à l'Orme 3 Feb. (M. McIntosh, BB) and La Présentation, *Drummondville*, 12 Feb onward (*fide* F. Bourret). The male Rufous Hummingbird reported last season in Eastman, *Estrie*, was last seen 18 Dec. (L. and H. Schmitz).

Single N. Flickers lingered well into the season at a feeder in Jonquière 6–14 Jan (G. Simard), in Cap-Rouge, 22 Dec–17 Jan (S. Blais, M. Giroux), in Bassin, *Iles de la Madeleine*, at the very late date of 13 Feb (JV), and also in Percé, Saint Godefroi and Gaspé, Dec–Feb, (*fide* PP). A Tree Swallow in Grande-Ile, *Valleyfield*, 2 Dec set a new Regional record-late date (G. François, DD). Tufted Titmice appeared in record numbers on many CBCs in s. Québec, and a scouting bird even reached Matapédia, Gaspé Peninsula, 7 Jan onward (P. Beaupré, photo). A Winter Wren was spotted in Sainte-Luce 6 Jan (G. Gendron). Carolina Wrens were well in evidence, with up to three in Philipsburg (JGP, GR) and singles in Saint-Luc (P. Beaulé), Valleyfield (*fide* AH), Senneville (R. Carswell), Baie-d'Urfée (J. Gregson), Longueuil, Cowansville (BH), Neuville (MD et al), and Pont-Rouge (m. ob.). In addition, it was found that an ad. had been seen with a juv. last summer in Boisbriand, near Montréal, providing a 5th nesting record for the Region (V. Létourneau).

Several groups of E. Bluebirds attempted to winter. Two were still in Ile Saint Bernard, *Châteauguay*, 12 Jan. (J. Gauthier, R. Lavoie, DD et al.), four in Philipsburg 9 Jan (GR, JGP), while five were discovered in Hemmingford 3 Jan (M. Poulin et al.). One survived to 5 Feb in Hemmingford for a new Regional record-late date. A male Varied Thrush was present in Sainte-Gertrude, near Bécancour, 18 Dec–18 March (R. Barbeau, m. ob.), while another one showed up in Boischatel 2–16 Dec (JMG); a third was in Beaudry, *Abitibi*, 21 Nov–2 Jan (D. Nadeau, E. van de Walle). The highlight of the season was the **Fieldfare**: a bird brightened l'Ascension-de Patapédia, *Gaspé*, 1727 Dec, a 5th Regional record (C. Francoeur et al., videotaped), while a male (same bird?) showed up at a

feeder in Grande-Cascapédia, Gaspé, 14 Jan–13 Feb (Mr. & Mrs. A. Campbell, m.ob., ph.). While not as abundant as last winter in e. Québec, Bohemian Waxwings made a good showing in the south, while on the other hand, the Cedar Waxwing was much less common than last winter. Northern Shrikes were well in evidence.

A Yellow-rumped Warbler spent Jan–10 Feb in the Montréal Botanical Gardens (m.ob.). A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Neuville 28 Dec (MD, M. Courteau) was the second for the Region and also the latest, while a Yellow-throated Warbler appeared briefly in Montmagny 18–19 Dec (JL, M. Dion, N. Tanguay, C. Deschênes). Late Palm Warblers included singles in Noyan 2 Dec (LS) and Saint-Sulpice 6–10 Dec (J. Beauchamp), the latter a new Regional record-late date.

A late male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Sainte-Sabine, *Richelieu*, lingered at a feeder from late Dec through at least 14 Jan (Mrs. Raymond, m. ob.). A female or imm. male **Painted Bunting** brightened a feeder at Sainte-Hélène-de-Bagot 11–26 Dec, furnishing the 7th record for the Region (E. Lapointe, m.ob.). An imm. male Dickcissel made frequent visits to a feeder in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 18 Dec–10 Feb (L. L'Écuyer, m.ob.), the latter a new Regional record-late date. A Field Sparrow overwintered successfully at a feeder in LaSarre, *Abitibi*, (L. Saulnier, *fide* S. Châteauvert, photo), while a White-crowned Sparrow attempted to winter in Chicoutimi-Nord Dec–20 Feb (M. Brochu, L. Dufour). An E. Meadowlark was present in Dundee 28–29 Jan (P. Éthier, JMB, DD), while a bird presumably of this species overwintered in Rivière-au-Tonnerre, *Lower North Shore* (L.Smith, m.ob.). An ad. **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch**, photographed in Saint-François-du-Lac 4 Dec, provided only the second record for the Region (D. Jauvin). Red Crossbills were present in above-average numbers all over the southern part of the province, while White-winged Crossbills, Purple Finches, Am. Goldfinches, and Pine Siskins were either present in low numbers or generally absent from the Region. Many Hoary Redpolls were spotted among the numerous flocks of Com. Redpolls throughout the Region.

EXOTICS

Two Ringed Teals appeared in Saint-Hyacinthe 5 Dec (N. Roy), while a flock of 10 Mandarin Ducks spent Jan along the Richelieu R., near Chambly (L. Laperle et al.). A Eurasian Goldfinch spent Dec in the Montréal Botanical Gardens (m.ob.).

Corrigendum

In reference to the Cacouna's Cinnamon Teals in June 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:361), it should be noted that both male and female were seen as early as 10 Jun (J. Bouchard, L. Dallaire). The report of the breeding of a pair of Eur. Goldfinches in the Montréal Botanical Gardens in summer 1999 should be omitted, as definitive evidences was lacking (*N. Am. Birds* 53:362).

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To repeat what seems to be becoming a mantra of sorts, the past winter was warmer than usual. December 1999 was the eleventh consecutive winter month with temperatures above the 30-year mean, although it was not as warm as December 1998. Temperatures averaged four degrees above average, with Maine beating the mean by almost six degrees. The warmth continued into early January, when the mercury reached into the 70s in southern New England, resulting in temperatures eight-to-ten degrees above normal. The picture shifted dramatically in mid-month, however, when in a matter of days the winter returned with a vengeance. Thermometers plunged to eight-to-ten degrees below normal, and the first measurable snowfall fell in the central portions of the region. The cold snap and precipitation persisted into mid-February, at which point things warmed and dried in what has become a fairly reliable late winter thaw over most of New England. On the whole, the winter was in the top fifth in terms of temperature, and roughly average in precipitation. There were few significant coastal storms, and the only other noteworthy weather event of the season was a very strong cold front on 22–23 January. As expected, birds responded positively to the unseasonable climate, especially in the first half of the winter. Lingering warblers were not as common as in 1998–1999, but waterfowl continued to remain north and inland at a time of year when such sightings were almost unheard of only a decade ago.

As might be expected after last year's absence, irruptive species made a good showing throughout the region. Dominating the flight were Northern Shrikes, Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and redpolls, including several Hoaries. The usual smattering of western passerine vagrants included Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, and Audubon's Warbler. More unexpected were Yellow Rails on Nantucket, possible Northern Lapwing in Maine and New Hampshire, Brambling in Connecticut, and perhaps most bizarre of all, an immature Brown Pelican that wandered up the Connecticut River as far as Westfield, Massachusetts, in early January.

Abbreviations: D.W.W.S. (*Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary, Marshfield, Plymouth, MA*), M.A.R.C. (*Massachusetts Avian Records Committee*), M.V. (*Martha's Vineyard, MA*), Nantucket (*Nantucket I., MA*), Ogunquit (*Ogunquit, York, ME*), Provincetown (*Provincetown, Barnstable, MA*), Rockport (*Rockport, Essex, MA*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Once again, an **Arctic Loon** was reported from southern coastal Maine, this time from Kennebunk, *York*, 31 Dec and 9 Jan. Although reasonably well-described, the consensus of several experts was that the observers could not completely eliminate other loon species (*fide* JD). This species remains unconfirmed from the east coast of North America. In contrast, **Pacific Loons** are becoming much more reliable, with this season's sightings at Mt. Desert Is., *Hancock*, ME, 5 Dec (*fide* WT), Ogunquit 6–24 Jan, and Barnstable, *Barnstable*, MA, 28 Dec (V. Laux, J. Trimble). January 12 was an unusually late date for a Com. Loon inland at Quabbin Res., MA (*fide* SK). The late freeze allowed a relatively high number of Horned Grebes to winter on L. Champlain, with a high count of 29 at Charlotte, *Addison*, VT, 2 Jan (TM). The Eared Grebe returned to East Gloucester, *Essex*, MA, for the fifth consecutive winter (1998–1999 report incorrectly said third winter). The only W. Grebes were unconfirmed reports from Maine: one in Southport, *Sagadahoc*, in mid-Dec and two in Ogunquit 12 Jan.

Following some spectacular November nearshore flights, three lingering Greater Shearwaters were seen in December in Massachusetts: two on Cape Cod 12 Dec (BN) and one at Rockport 15 Dec (RH). Numbers of N. Gannets were also somewhat higher than usual in Dec, with maxima of 42 in Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH, 24 Dec (AD) and 1700 at Provincetown 18 Dec (RH). Perhaps the bird of the season in New England was an imm. **Brown Pelican** that, for whatever reasons, wandered up the Connecticut River. First sighted at Windsor Locks, *Hartford*, CT, 31 Dec (*fide* M. O'Leary), it continued n. to Westfield, *Hampden*, MA, where it was captured 4 Jan, nursed back to health, and eventually returned to its normal haunts in Florida (*fide* SK). There were no unusual heron and egret reports from the region this winter. Black Vultures have now become unremarkable in w. Connecticut, but this core population continues to send prospecting individuals eastward along the coast. This season there were four elsewhere in Connecticut, two or three in Rhode Island, and three in s.e. Massachusetts. Turkey Vultures reached what appears to be a new winter maxima in Massachusetts, where up to 39 frequented a roost in S. Dartmouth, *Bristol*, throughout the season.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese are possibly increasing as winterers in s. New England. This season there were six in Connecticut, at least one in Rhode Island, and three in e. Massachusetts. More unusual were inland birds in Great Barrington, *Berkshire*, MA (J. Johnson, v.o.) 23 Dec; and two in Proctor, *Rutland*, VT, 3 Jan (†S. Wetmore). An increase less likely to be appreciated by local birders is that of the Mute Swan. Up to 13 of these aggressive exotics frequented the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts, where they were found as far n. as Hadley, *Hampshire*. Another was in Charlotte, VT, from late Jan–Feb (TM). An unprecedented flock of 60 Tundra Swans spent the night of 29 Feb on the N. Farm Res., Wallingford, *New Haven*, CT (*fide* GH). The only other reports of this species were three at the traditional site of Naples, *Cumberland*, ME, 28 Dec–5 Jan, and four in Coventry, RI, 21 Jan (*fide* RI Rare Bird Alert).

As a result of the mild winter, several species of waterfowl were either more common or lingered later than usual in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Included in this list were Am. Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead, although it should also be noted that Greater Scaup were less common. Surely an unusual identification challenge was a hybrid Gadwall × Am. Wigeon found in Portland, *Cumberland*, ME, 3 Dec (L. Brinker). Numbers of Eur. Wigeon were roughly normal, with four in CT, 10 in MA, and two in NH. Scattered Blue-winged Teal took advantage of open water and were found into Feb in e. Massachusetts (*fide* MR) and N. Shovelers seemed even more responsive to the mostly mild winter. Eastern Massachusetts hosted 11 in Dec and 13 in Jan, and four even made it to 28 Feb in Eastham, *Barnstable* (BN, W. Petersen). New Hampshire hosted two, at Plaistow 7 Jan and Newmarket 29 Jan (both *Rockingham*). Eurasian Green-winged Teal were in coastal Connecticut (*fide* GH) and Eastham, MA (G. Martin, v.o.).

The male Tufted Duck that has spent all or part of the last four winters on L. Wachusett, *Worcester*, MA, returned for a fifth and was last seen 8 Jan. Others were in Plymouth, *Plymouth*, MA, 1–15 Jan and Bridgeport, *Fairfield*, CT, 19 Feb (C. Barnard). There was possibly a second individual at the latter location 20 Feb, but it was not confirmed (*fide* GH). Harlequin Ducks seemed more common than usual, with the following high counts from traditional concentrations in Maine and Massachusetts: 54 at Ogunquit, *York*; 33 in *York*, ME; 81 at Rockport; 23 at Nantucket; and 21 at Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA. There was no report for the regional hotspot of Sachuest Pt., RI. Another hybrid was a male Com. × Barrow's Goldeneye that was well-described from Swansea, *Bristol*, MA, 26 Jan (†PL). Ruddy Ducks remained in impressive numbers after last fall's near-record showing. In Massachusetts, for which detailed data are available, there were totals of at least 1000 in Dec, 300 in Jan, and 130 in Feb. The high count of 444 came from the Cape Cod Bird Count 4–5 Dec. Numbers in Maine started at 100 early in Dec and dwindled to nothing by the end of the month. In New Hampshire, an unprecedented total of 630 was found on L. Massabesic, *Rockingham*, 18 Dec (I. McLeod) and one lingered at Exeter, *Rockingham*, to 10 May (SM).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Four Osprey were reported between Connecticut and Massachusetts in Dec, with the latest from Wayland, *Middlesex*, MA, 21 Dec (K. Hamilton). Connecticut also hosted an exceptional congregation of Bald Eagles in Feb, when at least 50 frequented the lower Connecticut River Valley. One of the raptor hotspots of the season was D.W.W.S. in se. Massachusetts, which hosted up to 12 N. Harriers, nine Red-tailed Hawks, and 12 Rough-legged Hawks, as well as a good variety of owls (see below). The late Jan cold front triggered a southerly movement of Rough-legged Hawks into Connecticut, where at least 30 birds made for one of the state's largest flights in recent memory (*fide* GH). It is thus puzzling that only a single individual was found in w. Massachusetts the entire winter. Farther n., Maine hosted normal numbers and the maximum daily count for Vermont was 15 in *Addison* 18 Jan (TM). Three Golden Eagles was a slightly above-normal total for Connecticut, but as with Rough-legged Hawks, this was offset by their complete absence from w. Massachusetts. Two were reported from Vermont: one seen by multiple observers in Shaftsbury, *Bennington*, 16–21 Feb and another unconfirmed bird from Whiting, *Addison*, 15 Feb (*fide* W. Scott). The highlight of the winter for local raptor lovers was undoubtedly the white-morph Gyrfalcon that spent a few days in early Feb at Stratford Great Meadows, *Fairfield*, CT (J. Zipp, v.o.).

Birders searching for a Sedge Wren on Nantucket were not prepared to find three **Yellow Rails** 17 Jan, providing the Bay State with its 6th winter record. One was still pre-

sent 19 Jan (F. Gallo, v.o.). Four Virginia Rails lingered into Jan in e. Massachusetts and one in Springfield, *Hampden*, MA, 18 Dec was only the third Dec record for w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Other late rails included a Sora on M.V. 8 Dec, and, continuing from the fall, a Com. Moorhen in Exeter, NH, 9 Dec (SM). A single Sandhill Crane was in Mattapoisett, *Bristol*, MA, 29 Dec and ≤3 frequented nearby Fairhaven through Jan and Feb (m.ob.)

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

The shorebird of the season must unfortunately remain hypothetical at best, at least as far as New England is concerned. A N. Lapwing was observed at close range, but in poor conditions and by an inexperienced observer, in Stratton, *Franklin*, ME, 10 Dec (*fide* JD). Roughly a week later, a possible lapwing was seen in Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH, 18 Dec (SM). What makes these reports interesting is that a lapwing was seen in Newfoundland in Nov and one was in Delaware later in Dec. Could all four sightings pertain to the same individual, miraculously detected multiple times on its southward journey, or was there something of an invasion of this Eurasian plover into the Northeast last fall? Likely we'll never know, but speculating on the possibilities is half the fun anyway.

Once again shorebirds lingered beyond their normal departure dates in Massachusetts. American Oystercatchers were reported from Nantucket 4 Dec and M.V. 27 Feb, the latter location hosting two birds. An amazing assemblage of out-of-season *Scolopacids* in Chatham, *Barnstable*, 19 Dec included a Semipalmated Plover, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and **four** W. Sandpipers (V. Laux, P. Trimble). Also on Cape Cod were four Long-billed Dowitchers in Hyannis 28 Dec, and a Whimbrel, quite likely the same bird as the last two winters, in Yarmouth 28 Dec–8 Jan. Away from the Bay State, the only shorebird report of note was an unidentified individual, possibly a Dunlin, on Grande Isle, *Grande Isle*, VT, 12 Dec (DH). An Am. Woodcock was at this same locality 15 Dec (DH).

Respectable numbers of jaegers passed First Encounter Beach, *Eastham*, MA, at the very beginning of Dec. Totals included 18 Pomarine Jaegers 1 Dec and 35 unidentified jaegers 2 Dec (BN). A Laughing Gull at Eastham 12 Dec was late leaving the Bay State (BN), and Little Gulls included one in Massachusetts and two in Connecticut. The landfill in Manchester, *Hartford*, CT, remained open until 1 Jan—before it finally closed it managed to attract a few gulls. High counts from December included three Iceland, two Lesser Black-backed, and four Glaucous, as well as a few hybrids, out of Connecticut totals of roughly eight Icelands and seven Lesser Black-backs (*fide* GH). With Manchester out of the picture and no reports from Rochester, *Strafford*, NH, isolated Nantucket remains the region's only magnet for the rarer winter gulls. High counts from the island this winter were 85 Icelands and 10 Lesser Black-backs. The season's only Thayer's Gull was in Maine, where a second-winter bird frequented the Orrington, *Penobscot*, area from early Dec–early Feb (m.ob., *fide* JD). Two Mew Gulls returned to the Boston area, one of them for probably the tenth year, while an individual in Bangor, *Penobscot*, ME, 11–13 Jan remains hypothetical (*fide* JD). Rounding out the gull list was Vermont's first documented **Ivory Gull** at Grande Isle 4 Jan (ph., DH, TM, T. Hall). The bird did not appear to be in the best of health and could not be relocated despite extensive searching on subsequent days. The season's only tern was a Forster's at Dennis, *Barnstable*, MA, 13 Dec.

The alcid show in coastal New England paled in comparison to that of the previous winter. Dovekies were quite scarce, with one report from Maine and 4–5 from Massachusetts. Common Murre reports included one in Maine and five in Massachusetts, although some of the latter did not include details that would help eliminate Thick-billed Murre. The latter species was significantly less common than in 1998–1999, with no more than four at any of the traditional localities. Razorbills, on the other hand, were sometimes abundant, especially on Cape Cod. Counts from Provincetown peaked at 500 on 13 Feb (BN). Even more remarkable was a flight of 2850 large alcids from this location, probably mostly Razorbills, in an hour-and-a-half on 21 Feb (BN). Away from Cape Cod the species was rarely reported, and usually in low numbers, the exception being 2950 at Rockport 15 Dec (RH). Single Atlantic Puffins were at Rockport in Dec and Jan.

PARROTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Monk Parakeet may be well on its way to moving into Massachusetts. Seven were reported from S. Dartmouth 21 Feb and, as if to welcome them, MARC has officially added the species to the state list. Barn Owl reports came from the expected location of Nantucket, but single birds also showed up in Boston and S. Dartmouth, MA, in Jan. Another reported from Owl's Head, ME, 20 Jan was exceptionally far north but was unaccompanied by supporting deatils (*fide* JD). Snowy Owls did better than last winter, with 11 in MA, one in NH, two in VT, and four in ME. Maine hosted two Great Gray Owls, the first in Cherryfield, Washington, 23 Jan (M. Hunter). The second, in Porter, *Oxford*, during the week ending 22 Feb (*fide* JD), moved a little to the w. and was last seen in Freedom, *Carroll*, NH, 27 Feb. While harriers and buteos ruled the day at D.W.W.S., they were

Any Ivory Gull in the contiguous United States is noteworthy. It was no different for this first-winter bird at Grand Isle, Lake Champlain, 4 Jan 2000, the first documented in Vermont. Photograph by David Hoag.

replaced at dusk by both Long-eared and Short-eared Owls. Winter maxima at this location were 12 and four respectively, and both species were reported in modest numbers elsewhere in Massachusetts. Banding efforts directed toward N. Saw-whet Owls yielded 120 birds during December at three se. Massachusetts locations, including D.W.W.S. (*fide* MR).

Only three Red-headed Woodpeckers wintered in New England, one in Maine and two in Massachusetts. Eleven Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New Hampshire suggest that the Granite State's population of this species may be stabilizing somewhat, while the ten birds in Maine represents the second-highest total in nine years (*fide* JD). Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in w. Massachusetts was the highest winter total since 1985 (*fide* SK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Eastern Phoebes lingered late, as would be expected given the mild December. Less expected, however, was one in Wayland, MA, 29 Jan. As indicated in the fall report, N. Shrikes staged a respectable invasion, with good numbers throughout the Region. Connecticut hosted at least 35, Massachusetts had over 60, and New Hampshire and Maine reported 24 and 55, respectively. Common Ravens continue to increase in w. Massachusetts, as exemplified by 53 in Becket, *Berkshire*, 15 Dec (*fide* SK). Tree Swallows presumably wintered in small numbers in Rhode Island as usual, so the only noteworthy report of this species was the early arrival of two at Chester, *Middlesex*, CT, 26 Feb (D. Sosensky). The only holdover from the fall's modest Boreal Chickadee flight was a single bird that remained in W. Newbury, *Essex*, MA, through 9 Jan. Much farther n. and e., where Boreal Chickadees are more expected, the parid of the season was a Tufted Titmouse in Machiasport, *Washington*, ME, 29 Jan (*fide* JD). Wrens making news included two Jan House Wrens in Massachusetts and two **Sedge Wrens**, apparently the state's third winter record, on Nantucket 7–19 Jan (R. Veit, v.o.). Carolina Wrens had one of their best winters in years, with above-average, if not near-maximum, numbers for peripheral areas such as w. Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine. Only time will tell if they can consolidate these gains in this era of increasingly warmer winters. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered to 24 Dec in Watertown, *Middlesex*, MA, providing a new late date for the state.

Intriguing, but without supporting details, was a N. Wheatear in Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA, 29–30 Dec (*fide* MR). Better documented was a **Townsend's Solitaire** in Colchester, *New London*, CT, 19 Dec (D. Titus). As has been the trend for the last several winters, E. Bluebirds were seemingly everywhere, especially in the milder parts of the Region. Away from the s. coastal areas, the increase has been going on for roughly ten years in w. Massachusetts and four years in Maine. American Robins followed suit, with flocks of over 100 reported throughout the Region. The high count came from Massachusetts, where 5000 were reported in Boston 26 Dec (K. Hudson). Two other half-hardies that regularly winter in s. New England, Hermit Thrush and Gray Catbird, numbered 40 and 30, respectively, during Jan–Feb in Massachusetts. Even more noteworthy were two February Hermit Thrushes in w. Massachusetts and a catbird in Bridgton, *Cumberland*, ME, 12 Jan.

One of the stars of the winter irruptive season was Bohemian Waxwing, which showed up in small numbers in Dec but peaked from north to south Jan–mid-Feb. Numbers were highest in Maine, with flocks of roughly 1000 along the cen. coast in mid–late Jan. Vermont's high count of 1100 came from S. Burlington, *Chittendon*, 18 Feb (TM). Flocks of over 100 were common in cen. and n. New Hampshire, with highs of 300 birds in two locations (*fide* AD). Farther s. in Massachusetts, numbers were in single digits through Dec, with birds mainly in the west and extreme east. They began to increase in Jan and reached highs of 218 in the w. at Royalston, *Worcester*, 24 Feb, and 80 in the e. at Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, 20 Feb. Apparently none made it all the way to Connecticut and Rhode Island. Cedar Waxwings, in contrast, were relatively uncommon in the n. three states, but easily outnumbered Bohemians in Massachusetts throughout the season.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In contrast to last winter and despite the mild weather, only 10 species of warblers were found in New England this past season. Among the usual hardy species, Orange-crowneds seemed a little less common than usual and Yellow-rumped numbers were down in s. coastal Maine (*fide* JD). Nashville Warblers seemed to be everywhere in e. Massachusetts, with three reports in Dec and two in Jan, one of which stayed through at least 25 Jan on M.V. Scattered Bay State *Dendroica* included a Cape May in W. Andover, *Essex*, 18–29 Dec; a Prairie in Arlington, *Middlesex*, 19 Dec; and a Blackpoll in Eastham 19 Dec. An **Audubon's Warbler** was in a flock of its eastern relatives in Orleans, MA, 13 Feb (†RH). In Connecticut, a Yellow-throated Warbler visited a feeder in Hamden, *New Haven*, 1 Dec–7 Jan (W. Storz). The **MacGillivray's** and Wilson's Warblers that appeared in Boston in Nov were last reported 20 Dec and 1 Jan, respectively (*fide* MR). Farther north, an Ovenbird spent the early winter at a feeder in Falmouth, *Cumberland*, ME, and a Common Yellowthroat was along the Connecticut R. in Hinsdale, *Cheshire*, NH, 8 Jan (S. Schmidt).

In addition to the two warbler species above, there were several other passerines of western origin in New England this winter. A male **Western Tanager**, quite possibly the same bird as last year, was in Orleans, MA, 1–13 Feb (m.ob.). Also returning, for its third winter, was Goshen, *Litchfield*, CT's **Bullock's Oriole**. A **Spotted Towhee**, the first for w. Massachusetts, appeared at a feeder in Hadley, *Hampshire*, 19 Dec–Feb (S. Surner, m.ob.). Among the sparrows, western forms made the spotlight with a Gambell's White-crowned Sparrow at D.W.W.S. 19 Jan+ and an Oregon Junco in Easthampton, *Hampshire*, MA, for the entire winter. Other wintering sparrows of note were a Clay-colored, also at D.W.W.S.; a Grasshopper on M.V. 1–23 Jan and a Henslow's at Great Meadows N.W.R., *Middlesex*, MA, 31 Dec (†G. Gorton). There were two Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Connecticut and one in Massachusetts.

And then there were finches. Although northern irruptives dominated the scene in 1999–2000, observers in Connecticut also had a visitor from the east: a first-year **Brambling** that spent Jan–Feb visiting a feeder, albeit sporadically, in Weston, *Fairfield* (ph., E. LaMore). The dominant winter finches of the season were Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls. The grosbeaks were limited to n. New England and w. Massachusetts, and started off relatively uncommon in Dec. By late Jan they appeared to have peaked, with flocks of 50 or more in Maine and New Hampshire and a high count of eight for w. Massachusetts. By mid-Feb they were mostly gone. The exceptions to this species' distribution pattern were two birds on Cape Cod 1 Jan, the first for that locality in over ten years (BN).

Common Redpolls had already made their presence known in New England in Nov and used the winter months to simply consolidate their gains. Flocks of over 400

were reported in Vermont and Maine, while 200 was more typical in Massachusetts. In the North, flock size was highest in Dec; by Feb the birds had become very local, with large flocks only at certain feeders and less likely away from them. In Massachusetts, flock size peaked in Jan, with most flocks numbering less than 50 in Dec and Feb. A few Com. Redpolls made it to Connecticut and Rhode Island, primarily in Dec. Along with the Commons came the Hoary Redpolls, and even if some of these sightings are unsubstantiated, it would appear that this was one of the better Hoary Redpoll showings in some time. Total available reports indicate two in Vermont, four in New Hampshire, ±10 in Maine, and three in Massachusetts.

Other finches were relatively scarce. Both species of crossbills were again along the coasts of s. New England, with the highest numbers (25–45) in Dec on Cape Cod, M.V., and Nantucket. Numbers reported in n. New England, these species' traditional stronghold, were generally lower. Pine Siskins made it all the way to Connecticut and Rhode Island in Dec, but then disappeared from most of the Region. Purple Finches and Evening Grosbeaks were generally scarce once again, although the latter species was relatively common, even occasionally abundant, in the far-flung localities of w. Massachusetts and e. Maine.

CORRIGENDA

The calling Pied-billed Grebe and inland-nesting Osprey, both reported in Coventry, CT, in the Summer 1999 report, were actually in Canterbury, CT.

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December and early January were unusually warm, but bitter cold weather arrived in mid-January and persisted into early February, when somewhat warmer than normal weather returned. Precipitation was below normal in December and February, and near to above-normal in January. There was little snowfall over much of the region until 25 January. The warm early winter brought with it even some non-hardies such as Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Summer Tanager, while no fewer than seventeen species of warblers were recorded.

The highlights of the season were Delaware's first Tufted Duck and third Northern Lapwing, Black Guillemot inland in Pennsylvania, New York's first MacGillivray's Warbler, the return of last year's Mew Gull, and what will become New Jersey's first California Gull if accepted by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. Also notable were a major die-off of American Woodcocks in the late January freeze, and unusually large numbers of Bald Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, Northern Shrikes, Common Redpolls, and in northern New York, Bohemian Waxwings. In addition, there were Ivory Gull and Indigo Bunting in New York; Brown Pelicans and Rufous Hummingbirds, which survived well into February, in both New Jersey and Delaware; two Varied Thrushes and Cave Swallows in New Jersey; Painted Buntings in Pennsylvania and Delaware; and a Le Conte's Sparrow in Delaware.

Abbreviations: Barnegat Light (*Barnegat Light State Park, Ocean, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE*); Hamlin Beach (*Lake Watch at Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY*); I.R.I. (*Indian River Inlet, Sussex, DE*); Jones Beach (*Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, NY*); Montauk (*Montauk Point, Suffolk, NY*); Montezuma (*Montezuma N.W.R., Wayne, NY*); Prime Hook (*Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ*); Tinicum (*John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum, Philadelphia, PA*).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

The region's only Pac. Loon was reported 31 Dec from Hamlin Beach (DT). In spite of the mild December, there was a larger southward migration of Red-necked Grebes this season than in the past two, with a peak of 23 at Hamlin Beach 15 Dec (BE, SSo, WS); the top CBC count was eight from Montauk 18 Dec (RJK). Seven Eared Grebes were present in New York, and four in New Jersey, all in late Dec or Jan. Pelagic trips to about 65 mi offshore, one on 4 Dec out of Manasquan Inlet, NJ, led by Guris with many observers, and another on 4–5 Dec out of Montauk by Guthrie and Wilson, produced a number of tubenoses. Recorded were five N. Fulmars (PG et al.); two Greater Shearwaters off Manasquan (PG et al.) and four off Montauk (AG, AWi); and two Manx Shearwaters off Manasquan (PG et al.) and one off Montauk (AG, Awi). Brown Pelicans were unexpected 26 Dec at Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE (MG, BGP), where they are rare at any season, and 13 Feb in the Manasquan R., *Ocean*, NJ (LM, SB). These provided the first *Kent*, DE, and 4th New Jersey winter records. American Bitterns were well represented in coastal areas with three in the marsh at I.R.I. 1 Jan (MG); one at Tinicum 19 Jan

(Philadelphia Birdline); 11 in New Jersey; and three on Long Island in Dec and Feb (RJK). Unusual was a Cattle Egret 31 Jan at Bombay Hook (MG). There are perhaps a dozen prior Delaware records at this late date. And more unusual was a Green Heron that wintered at Georgica Pond, *Suffolk*, NY.

WATERFOWL

Reports of 26 Greater White-fronted Geese were above normal. One at Monsey, NY, 9 Jan (J.&K. McDermott) provided a second *Rockland* record, and three in early Feb at Moorestown (C. Taylor, WD), were a record-high number for *Burlington*, NJ. Snow Geese were present in good numbers in n. parts of the Region and scarce in s. parts until mid-Jan, when temperatures dropped. Subsequently the pattern was reversed, and Cutler reported a large influx into the Delaware Valley: 75,000 at Middlecreek N.W.R., Lancaster, PA, 29 Feb (DH) was remarkable even for that goose paradise. Ten Ross's Geese was about normal. As usual, most were reported from the s. parts of the Region, with nine from Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. But a brief appearance of one at Oswego 8 Jan (JBr) provided a rare winter record for n. New York. Continuing the trend of last year, four Richardson's (Canada) Geese visited New York, with one at Pointe au Roche, *Clinton*, 2 Dec (B. Krueger, C. Mitchell), one at Watervliet Res., *Albany*, 2–18 Dec (W. Ellison), and two on the Sagaponack, *Suffolk*, CBC 19 Dec (*fide* PAB). A Black Brant 9 Jan at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach (*fide* TWB), was easily spotted when it was on land. Small numbers of Trumpeter Swans in nw. New York have become normal, with 1–2 at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe* 8–16 Jan (J. Bounds, RS, D.&G. Strong) and one at Montezuma N.W.R. 12 Jan (GP). But two at Ft. Hunter, *Dauphin*, PA, 17 Jan (DH) were unusual.

Eurasian Wigeon numbers improved slightly from last winter, with five in se. New York, one in Delaware, and one in New Jersey. A probable Am. x Eur. Wigeon hybrid was an interesting find at Cedar Creek Mill Pond 8 Jan near Milford, *Sussex*, DE (FR). Single Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian race *crecca* were present in early Dec at Beltsville, *Carbon*, PA (Philadelphia Birdline); 25 Dec at Prime Hook (MG); 27 Jan at Jamaica Bay NWR, Queens, NY (ROP); and 9 Jan in the Manasquan River (N. Mardones) for possibly the first Monmouth, NJ, record. Redheads were present in outstanding though not record numbers, with peak counts in w. NY as usual: 8000 were recorded 12 Feb at Hog Hole, Tompkins, NY, a six-year high; and 4174 were at Conesus Lake, Livingston, NY, 16 Jan (G. Hartestein, J. Olson). A female **Tufted Duck** at ponds near Rehoboth Beach, *Sussex*, DE, present for about three weeks beginning 18 Feb (P. Dumont, ph. FR, m.ob.) provided the first record for Delaware. Another female continued until 4 Dec in Pt. Pleasant, Ocean, NJ (m.ob.) and a male visited Claverton, *Suffolk*, NY, 7 Jan (JCl, P. Montonaldo) and nearby Riverhead 4–12 Feb (AB). The Region's largest numbers of Greater Scaup were off Sandy Hook in Raritan Bay until the mid-Jan freeze, and on the ocean side thereafter even when the bay re-opened. The maximum count was 20,000 in the ocean 11 Feb (PB). Other good concentrations were 7089 on the Rochester, NY, CBC 19 Dec; and 4900 at the Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary near Rye, *Westchester*, NY, 15 Jan. The peak count of nine King Eiders came from Hamlin Beach 2 Dec (BE, WS, SSo), with singles there on 15, 18, and 30 Dec. Several wintered at Montauk (m.ob.), and a lone individual was at Cape May, 6 Dec (A. Robinson). The Montauk CBC recorded 243 Com. Eiders 18 Dec; 200–300 wintered there, with one other in New York and seven in New Jersey. The usual wintering flock of Harlequin Ducks at Barnegat Light peaked at 30 on 9 Feb (EB, AS, DJ). Another flock wintering at Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, NY, built from 4–12 as the season progressed. About a dozen others, mostly singles, were all coastal. Barrow's Goldeneye had another strong year. One male and two females 20–26 Feb at Foul Rift in the Delaware River between *Warren*, NJ, and *Northampton*, PA, provided the first *Northampton* record (m.ob.), and a second male was reported 26 Feb further up-river at Portland, PA (RW, Steve Boyce). About three wintered in e. Long Island; one to two were on Cayuga L. *Seneca*, NY 11–12 Feb (B. Fambrough, M. Williams); and a half-dozen others were scattered through NY and NJ. .

Frigid conditions can lead to desperate measures, as with this predator-become-scavenger, an adult Red-shouldered Hawk feeding on a White-tailed Deer carcass at Pt. Phillips, Northampton, Pennsylvania, 9 Feb 2000. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

Wintering Bald Eagles were almost abundant, with nearly 400 reported, though undoubtedly some were counted more than once. The s. New Jersey Eagle Census 9 Jan tallied 84, while John Askildsen reported 56 along the lower Hudson River 12 Feb. Reporters from all over the Region commented on the largest invasion of Rough-legged Hawks in perhaps a decade. Though there were no large concentrations, reports came from almost anywhere suitable habitat existed. Illustrative was a huge northbound migration on 27 Feb, with 128 at Manitou Beach at Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY (DT, DN), and 121 at Derby Hill, Oswego, NY.

Ruffed Grouse remained scarce with the exception of a few hotspots in n. New York, where a high of 11 was reported 1 Jan on the Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY, CBC; 36 were reported on nine CBCs in the Hudson-Mohawk Region; five each were at Selkirk Shores SP, Oswego, NY, 4 Dec and W. Winfield, *Oneida*,

NY, 19 Feb, and four were at Gleason Meadows, *Chemung*, NY, 23 Feb. Surprising, however, were two on the *Cumberland*, NJ, CBC 2 Jan (M. Fritz, A. Nicholson). Native N. Bobwhite populations have greatly declined and the species is scarce except where stocked for hunting. Nevertheless there were a few good reports, including 15 at Cape Henlopen SP, Sussex, DE, 2 Jan (KB), and 12 on the Long Branch, *Monmouth*, NJ, CBC 2 Jan.

Single Sandhill Cranes visited Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA, 5 Dec (BS) and Green Pond near Heckville, *Northampton*, PA, from early Jan–Mar (m.ob.). Two were present near Cream Ridge, Monmouth, NJ, 16 Dec–15 Jan (m.ob.) and one was over Cape May 28 Feb (J. Lukens, KL). Very surprising was a report of up to eight in early Feb on private land in *Cumberland*, NJ (*fide* WD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

A **Northern Lapwing** at Bombay Hook 26 Dec–1 Jan (M. Selzer, m.ob.) provided Delaware with its 3rd record. Interestingly, this individual appeared at the very site of the state's first record in 1953. A Whimbrel on a sandbar off Jones Beach, present until 7 Jan (m.ob.), provided New York with its 6th winter record. Other out-of-season shorebirds included White-rumped Sandpipers at Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE, 26 Dec (MG, BGP), and more unusual, at Salmon Creek, *Greece*, in upstate NY 26 Dec (DT), as well as a Pectoral Sandpiper, also in upstate NY at Manitou Beach, *Monroe*, 27 Feb (DT, DN).

Great Skuas, two each 4 and 5 Dec, were reported 65 mi off Montauk (AG, AWi). A late jaeger, presumed to be Pomarine, over L. Ontario at Oswego, NY, 7 Feb (GP) provided the Oneida Lake Basin with its second winter report. An ad. Franklin's Gull in full breeding plumage 6–17 Feb in Dunkirk Harbor, *Chatauqua*, NY, provided the Region's only report (m.ob., v.t.). A second-winter **Mew Gull**, undoubtedly the same individual as last year, was found 30 Jan just e. of Shinnecock Inlet (M. Anderson, N. Laviola, C. Jager, P. Anderson) and remained until 26 Feb. An ad. **California Gull** was found 27 Dec at Florence, *Burlington*, NJ (WD), and was followed by other reports in Jan and Feb. This would furnish the state's first record if accepted by the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. Another ad. California Gull was present in the Niagara River, Niagara, NY, 4–12 Dec and 1–2 Jan (Willie D'Anna), where it is rare in winter. There were also several sightings of a possible Yellow-legged Gull (for which some details are available and additional ones are requested) at Florence on both the NJ and PA sides of the river. A first-winter **Thayer's Gull** was observed at Cape May 12–19 Feb (PL, v.t. SF, RC et al.) And a number were also reported from Florence, with one videotaped 29 Jan (E. Obercian, R. Machover, DL). Dasey's own observations indicated the presence of at least five individuals. This increases the number of New Jersey Thayer's Gull records to four, with others still pending. An all-white, first-winter Great Black-backed Gull was seen at Florence 26 Feb (WD, DD, F. Winfelder, B. Murphy). Dasey points out that, though seen only once, this bird probably was present for the entire season among more than 50,000 Herring Gulls because "this place is a chaser's nightmare." An Ivory Gull appeared 31 Dec at Hamlin Beach (BE, DT) in New York, where there are only about 15 prior records. Also unusual was a very late Com. Tern at Montauk 3 Jan (AB, Orhan Birol). An amazing 946 Forster's Terns were tallied 1 Jan on the Rehoboth Beach, Sussex, DE, CBC (*fide* J. Swertinski).

Two Dovekies were seen 18 Dec on the Lakehurst, *Ocean*, NJ CBC, and one to two others were at Montauk for much of January. Two Com. Murres and one Thick-billed Murre were 5–10 mi off Manasquan Inlet, *Monmouth*, NJ, 13 Feb (GW), and single Thick-billed Murres were reported from two other New Jersey locations. The highest count of Razorbills was 125+ at Montauk 9 Jan (AB). But the alcid of the season was a **Black Guillemot** 8 Jan at Lake Ontelaunee, PA (J. Pushcock et al.), for only the second *Berks* record of the past century. Another the same day was a fly-by at Montauk (S.&K. Feustel). A single Atlantic Puffin was off Manasquan Inlet 4 Dec (PG, m.ob.).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two to four Barn Owls wintered on commercial property in Keensburg, *Monmouth*, NJ (m.ob.) and one was at W. Bloomfield, *Ontario*, NY, 26 Dec (RS). An injured Snowy Owl at Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE, 5–14 Dec (v.o.) was captured and taken to a rehabilitation center, but did not survive. Three other Delaware reports of Snowy Owl, possibly all of the same individual, came from I.R.I. and Broadkill Beach, *Sussex*, DE, 26–27 Dec and 4 Feb (J.&R. Multhropp, M. Marino, E. Sabo). New Jersey had a single report 5 Dec at Jenkins, *Burlington* (PS), while ≤3 elusive individuals moved about e. Long Island through early Feb, and four others were in n. and w. New York. Short-eared Owls were present in excellent numbers, with high counts of 26 on the Barnegat, *Ocean*, NY, CBC 2 Jan; 14 in the Ft. Plain, *Montgomery*, NY, area; 12 on the Bombay Hook CBC 26 Dec; and 12 at Amasas Landing, NJ, in December (WD, DD). Last fall's two Rufous Hummingbirds both survived into Feb: the one at Blackwood, NJ, until 10 Feb, and the one at Hockesin, DE, at least until 19 Feb. Single, unidentified hummingbirds were reported 16 Dec Eaton Township, *Wyoming*, PA (WR), and 20 Dec Webster, *Monroe*, NY (L. Grosshans). Numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers remained low, although with a few bright spots. A high of 10 was recorded 18 Dec on the Great Swamp, *Morris*, CBC (B. Boyle, K. Thompson), with at least two wintering. Three wintered at New Lisbon, *Burlington*, NJ (EB). Three in early Feb were at the Mashomack Preserve, *Suffolk*, NY, and four in late Dec were at scattered locations in *Bucks*, PA.

SHRIKES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Loggerhead Shrikes made an unusually good showing by today's standards, with five reports. In Delaware, one each was reported from Pickering Beach, *Kent*, 26 Dec (MG, BGP), from Prime Hook 2 Jan (MG, BGP), and from Bombay Hook 20 Feb (MS). In New Jersey, one was at Cedarville, *Cumberland*, 2–17 Jan (E. Manners, m.ob.) and one at Cape May 5 Feb (RC). N. Shrikes staged one of their biggest movements here in memory, with 150+ reported from all over the region, predominantly in Dec and Feb. Some reporters simply said "too numerous to mention."

Once again Com. Ravens showed up at a

SA On 14 January, after a long warm early season, the weather in Cape May County, NJ, turned very cold. On 21 Jan came the first reports of large numbers of American Woodcocks feeding along roadsides. By 25 Jan the ground was snow-covered, and although Dowdell reported the high count of 210 still feeding on 26 Jan, dead ones had already begun to appear on roadsides, in back yards, and all along the southern end of the Garden State Parkway. Lehman collected some 60 freshly dead birds himself and reported many more as flattened roadkills. He sent the bodies to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, where they were found to be incredibly underweight and had starved, presumably because of the snow cover and frozen ground. The cold persisted until early February, and Lehman estimated from his own observations that the mortality rate must have been 80% or more. Concern diminished slightly with the start of a strong return movement of early migrants about three weeks later.

small number of new locations, particularly in s. New York and n. New Jersey. Two reports of note for their southern locations were one at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, 1 Dec (H. Tomlinson) and one on the Delaware, PA, CBC 18 Dec (J. Waldie, T. McParland, A. Mostrom). A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** 24 Dec was a surprise at Trenton, NJ, and across the Delaware at Morrisville, PA (SF, PL). On 21 Jan a weak, emaciated one, probably the same individual, was picked up in Trenton and taken to a rehabilitation center where it died the same day (R. Frock, L. Larson, *Princeton U. collection). Lehman points out that these records are probably the latest for Pennsylvania and surely for New Jersey. A Cave Swallow 1 Dec and another or perhaps the same on 17–21 Dec at Cape May provided the state's latest record (PL, SF, RC, B. Glaser), while another was observed at Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ, 11 Dec (C. Wood, MO). Carolina Wrens reached strong levels over the middle portions of the Region, with a high of 170 on the Long Branch, *Monmouth*, CBC 1 Jan, and reports of 12 scattered over *Dutchess*, NY, in Feb suggest that a reasonable number survived the cold spell. A House Wren (well-described per R. Radis) was reported at a feeder in Bloomfield, Essex, NJ, 10 Feb, exceptionally late for n. New Jersey (C. Sashano). American Robins were reported plentiful to abundant, but a 26 Dec report of over 40,000 flying to a roost at French Creek SP, *Berks*, PA (J. Cook, R. Keller), had no competition. A male Varied Thrush visited a feeder in Buena, Atlantic, NJ, 29 Jan–9 Feb (G. Murtha, m.ob.), and another of unreported sex visited a feeder in Tabernacle, *Burlington*, NJ, 25 Jan–mid-Feb (D. Fallstick, AS). Upstate New York had a major influx of Bohemian Waxwings, with reports totaling over a thousand individuals. The highest counts were 270 at Pulaski, *Oswego*, 15 Jan (BP) and 150 at Peru, *Clinton*, 25 Feb (E&HF). Most interesting however, were reports of singles on the Oceanville, *Atlantic*, NJ, CBC, 26 Dec (B. Moscatello), Westhampton Dunes, *Suffolk*, NY, 30–31 Jan (A. Lauro, AG), and probably the same individual at E. Moriches, *Suffolk*, NY, 7 Feb (AB).

WARBLERS

A Tennessee Warbler 18 Dec at Inwood Park, Bronx, (C. Lyons), provided a record-late date for New York. Five Nashville Warblers were present, all in mid-Dec: two in New York, two in New Jersey, and one in Delaware. A late N. Parula was at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, 12 Dec (v.o.). A Magnolia Warbler was in Central Park, NYC, 12 Dec (m.ob.). A Cape May Warbler at Columbia, *Warren*, NJ, 5 Feb–April (ph. BH, T. Hardiman, m.ob.) apparently wintered for only the second time in NJ. Another 19 Dec at Fulton, *Oswego*, NY (BP), provided the 2nd winter record for the Oneida Lake Basin. And a third 19 Dec–26 Jan at Central Park (J. DiCostanzo, G. Lee, m.ob.), provided a New York record-late date. Black-throated Blue Warblers were at Bridgehampton, *Suffolk*, NY, 27 Dec (v.o.) and Atglen, Chester, PA, in early Jan (BS). Yellow-throated Warblers visited feeders in Skaneateles, *Onondaga*, NY, 13–27 Dec—the 8th Oneida Lake Basin record at any season (R. Jowiasis, L. Pietrowski)—and in Edison, *Middlesex*, NJ, 30 Dec–mid-Jan (C.&P. McNulty). Although infrequent in the Region after the breeding season because of its southerly range, Yellow-throated Warbler has occasionally migrated in reverse. Prairie Warblers were at Montauk 4 Dec (JCl et al.), and on the Moorestown, *Burlington*, CBC 26 Dec and the Philadelphia Mid-Winter Bird Census 8 Jan (K. Somerville). Palm Warblers were common in the s. parts of the Region, but an outlier was at New Baltimore, *Green*, in upstate New York 8 Jan (R. Guthrie). Ovenbirds were at a Monroe Township, *Middlesex*, NJ, feeder late Dec–27 Jan (E. G. Strasser, ph.) for a NJ record-late date and at Irondequoit, *Monroe*, NY, 15–16 Jan (DT, M. Mattei). A **MacGillivray's Warbler** at Staten Island, 15 Dec–1 Jan provided New York's first state record (RV, m.ob.). Wilson's Warblers were at Broadkill Beach, *Sussex*, DE, 26 Dec (I. Goverts, D. Bruce) and at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA, 23 Jan–10 Feb in a sheltered ravine with warm water discharged by a Lancaster Water Authority plant, for what is possibly a record-late PA date.

Unlike its kin in Florida (see the Pictorial Highlights), this immature Snowy Owl at Port Mahon, Delaware, 5–14 Dec 1999 was in a far more likely locale. Photograph by Alan Brady.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A female Summer Tanager at St. Luke's Garden in Greenwich Village was a big surprise 4 Dec († H. Tetrault, N. Wageric). This report may represent a record-late date for New York. Six Clay-colored Sparrows were reported: one from Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, PA, 12 Dec for the second consecutive winter (ph. BH, RW); one each on the Brooklyn CBC 26 Dec, and on the Assunpink, Monmouth, Middletown, Salem, and Cape May CBCs in New Jersey 19 Dec; and one at Villas, *Cape May*, NJ, 3 Feb (JD). Lark Sparrows were at w. Cape May on the Cape May CBC 19 Dec (MO, L. Zemaitis); at Thompson Park on the Long Branch, *Monmouth*, NJ, CBC 1 Jan (T. Bailey); and at a feeder in Pilesgrove Township, *Burlington*, NJ, in Jan (F. Lenik, T. Petrongolo). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Cape May 11 Dec (G. Myers, KL) and another was a big surprise 6 Feb at Union Beach, *Monmouth*, NJ (T. Boyle), representing a New Jersey record-late date. A Le Conte's Sparrow was observed at Bombay Hook 5 Dec and 8 Jan (ph. FR, m.ob.). This sparrow is rare in Delaware, where there are only a handful of records. White-crowned Sparrows were present in better-than-average numbers, with a record 312 on the Bernville CBC, *Berks*, PA, 1 Jan. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were recorded at Martin's Creek 9 Jan (BH, RW, ph.) and on the Sagaponack, *Suffolk*, NY, CBC 19 Dec (*fide* PAB). An Oregon Junco was reported on the Boonton CBC, *Morris*, NJ, 26 Dec; another was at Pompey, *Onondaga*, NY, after 17 Jan; and a third was at

York, *Livingston*, NY, 18 Jan (DT). More unusual, a Pink-sided Junco was reported on the Bronx, NY, CBC 26 Dec (RV, PAB) by observers familiar with that race. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequented a number of feeders at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ, in Dec (E. W. Marshall). An **Indigo Bunting** wintered at a Central Park feeder, providing New York's 5th winter record and the first to be present for an entire winter. Female Painted Buntings were at Amity Township, *Berks*, PA, 19 Dec (S. Goldberg), where it spent most of last winter, and at Prime Hook 2 Jan (MG, BGP). A Dickcissel at an Oneida, NY, feeder 11 Dec–2 Jan (A. J. Wood, m.ob.) provided the 5th Oneida Lake Basin winter record. And others were observed on the *Delaware*, PA, CBC 19 Dec (J. Lockyer, D. Washabough, L. Ferreri); on the Long Branch CBC 1 Jan (SB, LM, PB); on the Cape May CBC 19 Dec (S. Sherman); and at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA, 9–10 Dec (A. Mirabella).

Only four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported this season: from n. Wilmington, DE, 10 Feb (MS); from Buck, *Lancaster*, PA, 24 Feb (Philadelphia Birdline); from Cutchogue, *Suffolk*, NY, 26 Feb (B. Prentice); and from Upper Deerfield Township, *Cumberland*, NJ, 22 Jan (M. Ivanick). Brewer's Blackbirds were at their usual location near Leipsic, *Kent*, DE, in Dec and early Jan, with a peak count of over 40 on 17 Dec (G. Lovelace). The only other report was of two at Buck 24 Feb (Philadelphia Birdline). A flock of 250,000 blackbirds, mostly Com. Grackles, were reported roosting at Great Meadows, *Warren*, NJ, 27 Dec (D. Breide), down from last year's 700,000. Baltimore Orioles made strong showing, with more than 25 reported this winter. But overshadowing them was a female oriole showing characteristics of a Bullock's at a feeder in Mt. Joy, *Lancaster*, PA, 13 Jan–Mar (ph. M. Gockley, m.ob.).

Modest numbers of Pine Grosbeaks visited the Adirondacks, with highest counts being 25 on the Saranac L. CBC, *Franklin*, NY, 2 Jan, and 12 on the Elizabethtown CBC, *Essex*, NY, 26 Dec. Red Crossbills were reported in small numbers from many locations over the entire Region, mostly in Jan and Feb. White-winged Crossbills were reported in a similar pattern, but in much lower numbers. Common Redpolls staged a big invasion, with well over 6000 individuals reported, and were present in roughly equal numbers through the whole season. Whereas the largest numbers were reported from the north, no part of the Region was missed. The highest counts were 1000 on the Johnstown-Gloversville CBC, *Fulton*, NY, 27 Dec, and 527 on the Elizabethtown CBC 26 Dec. Along with these came no fewer than 25 reports of Hoary Redpolls totaling 31 individuals; whereas some may be in error, the ratio of Hoary to Common Redpolls is realistic. As in recent years, there were relatively few Evening Grosbeaks, nearly all in upstate New York. The highest counts were 245 on the Johnstown-Gloversville CBC 27 Dec, 136 on the Ithaca CBC, and 111 at Summerhill State Forest, *Cayuga*, NY, 5 Jan.

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): Pete Bacinski, Baird Ornithological Society, Andy Baldelli, **Scott Barnes** (North Coast Region, NJ: Owl Haven, P.O. Box 26, Tennent, NJ 07763), **Chris Bennett** (Sussex DE: Cape Henlopen SP, 42 Cape Henlopen Dr., DE 19958), Karen Bennett, **Michael Bochnik** (Hudson - Delaware Region, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Ed Bruder, P. A. Buckley, **T. W. Burke** (New York Rare Bird Allert), Jim Clinton (JCl), Richard Crossley, Diane Dasey, **Ward Dasey** (Lower Delaware Valley, NJ: 29 Ark Rd., Medford, NJ 08055), Jim Dowdell, **A. P. Ednie** (New Castle and Kent, DE: 59 Lawson Ave., Claymont, DE 19703), **Vince Elia** (South Coast and Delaware Bay, NJ: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Rte. 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08210), Shawneen Finnegan, **Jane Graves** (Hudson-Mohawk Region, NY: Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866), Paul Guris, Mary Gustafson, Andy Guthrie, Brian Hardiman, **Armas Hill** (Philadelphia and Delaware Birdlines), **Deuane Hoffman** (E. Susquehanna Valley, PA: 3406 Montour St., Harrisburg, PA 17111), Don Jones, **Arlene Koch** (Lehigh Valley, PA: 1375 Raubsville Rd., Easton, PA 18042), R. J. Kurtz, Paul Lehman, Derek Lovich, Karl Lukens, Linda Mack, **Hugh McGuinness** (E. Long Island, NY: P.O. Box 3005, Southampton, NY 11969), **Dick Miga** (Niagara Frontier Region, NY: 38 Elm St., Fredonia, NY 14063), D. Niven, Michael O'Brien, **Bill Ostrander** (Finger Lakes Region, NY: 872 Harris Hill Rd., Elmira, NY 14903), **Ed Patten** (Northwestern Region, NJ: 9 Cornfield Ter., Flemington, NJ 08822), Bruce Peterjohn (BGP), **John M. C. Peterson** (JP) (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: Discovery Farm, RD 1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Gerard Phillips, **Bill Purcell** (Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Rd., Hastings, NY 13076), **Rick Radis** (Piedmont Region, NJ: 69 Ogden Ave., Rockaway, NJ 07866), Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, **William Reid** (Northeastern PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Frank Rohrbacher, **Sy Schiff** (Long Island, NY: 603 Meade Ter., S. Hempstead, NY 11550), Bob Schutsky, August Sexauer, Michael Smith, S. Soule (SSo), R. G. Spahn (Genesee Ornithological Society), **Pat Sutton** (Cape May Bird Observatory), Dave Tetlow, Richard Veit, Angus Wilson (AWi), Rick Wiltraut, **Al Wollin** (Long Island, NY: 4 Meadow Lane, Rockville Center, NY 11570).

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middle atlantic coast

Marshall J. Iliff
Report to **James L. Stasz**
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Of tremendous assistance in preparing this report was online access to Regional Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data (http://birdsource.cornell.edu/cbc/index.html). In previous seasons it has been a struggle to have even half of the Regional CBC results in hand by the end of the season. Whereas those data lack the specifics of location and observer that we prefer, they still add tremendously to the body of reports for the season, to our ability to assess average trends, and to make general statements about relative abundances. We still implore CBC compilers to send us specific data for the more unusual species. Below I cite numerous CBC reports without credit to observers or compilers: most of these were taken directly from the above web site, where at least the compiler can be referenced. Where I had specific information on observers and locations, they are listed in addition. As always, due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Maryland; however, each Virginia locale is annotated the *first time* it appears.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester, MD*); Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); C.B.B.T. (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton, VA*); CBC (*Christmas Bird Count*); Conow. (*Conowingo Dam, Harford/Cecil, MD*); D.C. (*District of Columbia*); Deal (*Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD*); E.S.V.N.W.R. (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA*); P.R.N.A.S. (*Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD*); P.L.S.P. (*Point Lookout State Park, Saint Mary's, MD*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A count of 1362 Red-throated Loons 31 Dec at Bethel Beach Preserve, *Mathews*, VA, was excellent for the Bay (JBB). A report of **Pacific Loon**, still with only a few confirmed Regional records, was presumably well-documented from the Little Creek, VA, CBC 31 Dec. An impressive flight of Horned Grebes arrived at P.L.S.P. 15 Feb, when over 2000 were counted (PC), but apparently the bulk was gone the next day. Red-necked Grebes were reported from three VA CBCs, and singles were seen 13 Feb at Ocean City Inlet, *Worcester* (JLS), and the C.B.B.T. (KG). Eared Grebes appeared at Little Creek for the CBC 31 Dec, Ocean City Inlet 29 Jan (GM, P&ED, C.&G. Vaughn), and Kipt. 31 Jan (D. Clark).

The Virginia Beach pelagic trip 12 Feb (BPa et al.) found 35 N. Fulmars. Northern Gannets remained in numbers in the middle Bay at P.L.S.P. through 6 Jan, when 50 were estimated (MJI). Late lingering Brown Pelicans provided a 2nd *Charles* record at Rock Pt. 10 Dec (D. Perry), while two at P.L.S.P. 26 Dec and five at P.R.N.A.S. 3 Jan provided long-awaited firsts for any Maryland CBC. Great Cormorants were well-represented on middle Bay CBCs, but one at Conow. 16 Jan (EB, EJS) was an outlier. Two Anhingas at Sawpen Pt., Virginia Beach, VA, 24 Dec (TB) were at the same location where one has been found in the past two winters. Deal produced rare January herons, including one Snowy Egret and 33 Tricolored Herons 1 Jan (RFR), two Snowy Egrets (GMJ) and an ad. Little Blue Heron 8 Jan (GLA et al.). The extremely rare Green Heron was found on the Bowie, *Prince George's*, CBC 26 Dec and the Chincoteague, VA, CBC 29 Dec. The only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was on the Wachapreague, VA, CBC 18 Dec, while the Cape Charles CBC continued to record a wintering White Ibis flock on Fisherman I., with 73 counted 30 Dec.

Greater White-fronted Geese were not much in evidence until late winter, when one appeared at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's*, 28 Jan (H. Sears), two adults were found at Park Hall, *Saint Mary's*, 29 Jan+ (KR, m.ob.), and one adult was at Choptank, *Caroline*, 20 Feb (ph. GMJ). An adult that dropped in for a stopover 25–26 Feb (A. Ripley, TH, JLS) at a small pond in Victoria Station was a *Calvert* first and the only bird specifically noted as orange-billed. Some 13 individual Ross's Geese were reported; the species is remarkably easy to find in either state anywhere that Snow Geese concentrate. An ad. blue-morph Ross's at Sparks Rd., *Caroline*, 18 Dec (JLS) was only the third to be reported in Maryland. An unbanded ad. Barnacle Goose at Jesterville Rd., *Wicomico*, 6–12 Feb (†D&CB, ph. JLS, v.o.) constituted the 19th report for Maryland. The species is not yet accepted on the state list, though the preponderance of records in November and early winter support natural origin (see discussion by Ringler in *Maryland Birdlife* 44:35). Only seven Richardson's (Canada) Geese (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii*) were reported. Wood Ducks remained in better-than-average numbers, with a high count of 134 on the Wachapreague CBC 18 Dec. Returnees were evident as early as mid-Feb. A male Eur. Green-winged Teal at n. E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester*, 12–13 Feb (SHD) may have been the same bird seen there in the spring of 1998 and 1999. Ruddy Shelducks were reported from three locations. Of six reports of Eur. Wigeon, the most notable were the four on the Ocean City CBC 28 Dec, which included two males and one female on Assateague I. (MJI, JLS, MHa, KF) and another male at Ocean Pines. The highlight of the season for many was the ad. male **Tufted Duck** (p.a., ph., vt., m.ob.) found in D.C. near National Airport on the Potomac River. First spotted by Halpin on 29 Jan, the bird was later seen in D.C. waters through 31 Jan, before relocating downriver to *Prince George's*, MD, 6–9 Feb, and finally reappearing at Haines Pt., D.C., 13–22 Feb. In its travels this bird provided firsts for D.C. and *Prince George's* and only the 3rd ever for Maryland. Other Tufteds found in NJ and DE suggest a natural influx. King Eiders were essentially not present this year, with reports on three single dates from widely scattered locations, while Com. Eiders were limited to one on the C.B.B.T. and a single ad. male at Ocean City 29 Dec (v.o.). Harlequin Ducks were found at their usual haunts at Ocean City and the C.B.B.T.

SA What must have been an unusual concentration of bait fish close to shore resulted in an extraordinary concentration of fish-eating birds along the Virginia shore in mid-February. Looking between Back Bay and Sandbridge, VA, Pearce estimated some 12,000 Northern Gannets and 4000 Red-breasted Mergansers on 13 Feb. Those bird concentrations in turn attracted the jaegers: he saw two Parasitics there 12 Feb and one Pomarine 13 Feb.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Some 20 Ospreys were reported on 11 dates this season, exclusively from Virginia. Presumably the mild weather spurred some to attempt wintering in the more temperate Virginia estuaries. The first returnee was on schedule 29 Feb (DB). Six N. Goshawks were below expectations after a good fall flight. The ad. dark ***calurus* Red-tailed Hawk** reported last year returned to spend a second winter at the I-66/Rte. 236 interchange, *Prince William*, VA, with reports through at least 22 Feb (C. French). This year was superb for Rough-legged Hawks, with reports from traditional locations as well from many atypical locations. There were at least 20 VA reports, mostly from the Piedmont, with another three on the Wachapreague CBC 18 Dec and two on the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec. Sixty Merlin reports for the season may have been a new Regional high, but was due in part to easy online access to CBC data. Among a swarm of Peregrine Falcon reports, one inland at Wakefield, *Carroll*, 22 Jan (RFR) was the most unusual. The only Sora reports hailed from s. VA, while single Com. Moorhens were noted on the Back Bay CBC 29 Dec and Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, with an imm. 12–17 Jan (E. Hynes, AR, JBB). The Sandhill Crane from the fall at Tarbutton Mill Rd., *Talbot*, stayed through 17 Jan (D. Powell).

Three Semipalmated Plovers at the Eagle's Nest campground mudflats, *Worcester*, 28 Dec (MJI, JLS, HLW), and two there 8 Jan (GLA et al.) provided among few winter records for MD. The 58 Semipalmated Plovers on the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec (*fide* HTA) was an excellent count. Numbers of Am. Oystercatchers remained in *Mathews*, VA, with 12 recorded on that CBC. The Am. Avocet at Fisherman I. for the Cape Charles CBC, 30 Dec (†MJI), was the only one this season. Continuing a recent trend, Lesser Yellowlegs were widely reported from locations in coastal Virginia and Maryland, though generally in small numbers, while Willets wintered again in the Ocean City area, with a high of nine on the CBC 28 Dec and two at the Eagle's Nest mudflats 8 Jan (MHa et al.). Other rare winter shorebirds were Spotted Sandpipers on two coastal VA CBCs, three Whimbrels on the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec, a Spotted on the Newport News, VA, CBC 18 Dec, and a Spotted Sandpiper and a single Piping Plover on the Chincoteague CBC 29 Dec; the plover furnished one of few recent winter reports in the Region. Red Knots were found only at Cedar I. 18 Dec (HTA et al.), Assateague I. 28 Dec (HLW et al.), and Ocean City 29 Jan (GM). Least Sandpipers were comparatively scarce on CBCs this season. Long-billed Dowitchers were found wintering in Maryland for the second straight year, though there are only a couple of previous winter records. Six were on the S. *Dorchester* CBC 27 Dec, a stellar 41 were counted at South Pt., *Worcester*, 28 Dec (D. Mozurkewich) for the Ocean City CBC, and three were at Elliott I., Dorchester, 24 Feb (W. Bell *fide* HTA). Either dowitcher is extremely rare in Maryland in winter, but the Short-billed Dowitcher is expected as a winterer on Virginia's Eastern Shore, where 105 were counted on the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec.

A Great Skua was an extraordinary from-shore sighting from Back Bay N.W.R. on the CBC 29 Dec (ESB), while an intermediate imm. Parasitic Jaeger was at the C.B.B.T. 19 Dec (ESB, BLS). Laughing Gulls showed a taper similar to past years, with concentrations lingering through Christmas at a few specific estuarine locales (e.g. 2260 on the Hopewell, VA, CBC and hundreds on the D.C. CBC 19 Dec), followed by a rapid and immediate disappearance. No cold snap or front appeared to prompt their withdrawal. The 17 reports after 25 Dec were mostly of single birds or small groups at the coast, Tidewater Virginia, or in the D.C. basin area, except for high counts of 48 at the C.B.B.T. 26 Dec, 85 on the Little Creek CBC, 28 on the Nansemond R. CBC 2 Jan, and 150 on the Dismal Swamp CBC 3 Jan. The latest were one at Schoolhouse Pond 12 Jan (TH) and four at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, 23 Jan (S. Suter). A late second-winter Franklin's Gull was reported near Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester*, 4–5 Dec (SHD, B. Odear). A first-winter Little Gull joined the large seabird concentration at Virginia Beach 13 Jan (BP), while others were at Ocean City 29 Dec (MJI, HLW et al.), on the Little Creek, VA, CBC 31 Dec, at Ft. Story 23 Feb (D. Worley et al.), and an ad. at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, *Calvert*, 25 Feb (DB) through the end of the season. There were six reports of Black-headed Gull. The **Black-tailed Gull** returned to the C.B.B.T. 26 Dec (BLS et al.) and remained through the season, though no second bird was seen this winter. An ad. **California Gull** was a great find for inland Virginia at the *Fauquier* Landfill 19 Dec (B. Abrams, B. Tarter, J. Bourdreau). Maryland's reliable **Kelp Gull** persisted through the season and was recorded on the Patuxent River CBC 3 Jan. Probable hybrid Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gulls were seen at Salisbury Landfill, *Wicomico*, 15 Jan (ph. MJI) and Jug Bay 22 Jan (DC), while an apparent Great Black-backed x Herring Gull was at Ocean City Inlet 19 Feb (vt. DC). Reports of Thayer's Gulls came mostly from Conowingo Dam where 1–2 ad. were seen from 26 Dec (EB) on and where a first-winter was recorded 21 Feb (JLS, MHa), but also from Salisbury Landfill 18 Jan (SHD), Jug Bay 19 Dec (MJI), and Schoolhouse Pond 24 Jan (JLS), all first-winters. Reports of 12 Iceland and 4 Glaucous Gulls were indicative of a sub-par winter for gulling in the Region. A first-winter **Yellow-legged Gull** found at the C.B.B.T. 16 Dec was well-described by Brinkley. A number of subsequent reports over the next month were difficult to evaluate due to lack of details, especially dangerous with so tricky an identification. Apparently no photos were taken. In addition to a county-first ad. Black-legged Kittiwake at P.L.S.P. 26 Dec (KR, GM), a fair number of kittiwakes were seen from shore along the coast 17 Dec–9 Jan (seven reports), when three ad. were seen from Assat. (MJI et al.). Forster's Terns lingered through the CBC season but were scarcely reported thereafter, with the latest being one at Ocean City Inlet 15 Jan (MJI, MHa), followed by the three (presumed) early returnees at Leonardtown 25 Feb (PC). One on Kent I., *Queen Anne's*, 5 Jan (H. A. Patten) and two at Leonardtown 7 Jan (PC) were unusually late in the Bay. A Black Skimmer at Cedar I. 18 Dec (HTA et al.) and three on the Little Creek CBC 31 Dec were unusually late. The 140+ Razorbills on the 12 Feb pelagic trip from Virginia Beach (BPa et al.) were the only alcids recorded.

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Short-eared Owls were in excellent numbers this year, evidenced by widespread reports from old and new locations and by a high count of 21 on the S. *Dorchester* CBC 29 Dec. One to three were much enjoyed all winter long at Bull Run Post Office Rd. for a rare *Fairfax*, VA, sighting (m.ob.).

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported on the Newport News CBC 18

Dec. Single Rufous Hummingbirds stayed at Brandywine, *Prince George's*, through 1 Jan (†P. Dowell, GM, ph., vt., v.o.), while the ad. female in *Carroll* remained through 6 Jan (*fide* MG). Both departed on warm days and presumably moved south. Such an event certainly occurred in Virginia. Mary Martin's feeder in Vienna, *Fairfax*, VA, hosted the ad. female banded in November, dubbed "Spot," as well as a second ad. female ("Reds") which was first noted 7 Dec and was banded 17 Dec (MG). Both remained through 20 Feb, with one present the next day, and not seen thereafter. Amazingly though, "Spot" appeared 29 Feb at Stacy Gombar's Lorton, *Fairfax*, VA, feeder 15 miles to the south!

The excellent N. Shrike year continued, with one at Bull Run Post Office Rd. 5 Dec–6 Jan (KG, m.ob.), one ad. at Orndorff Rd., *Frederick*, 11–19 Dec (ph. MJI, JLS, WLH, v.o.), one ad. at U.S. Naval Academy Dairy Farm, *Anne Arundel*, 13–19 Jan (ph. †MJI, T. Wright), one at Cap Stine Rd. *Frederick*, 30 Dec–2 Jan (C. Barnard, v.o.), one at Lilypons, *Frederick*, 2 Jan (BC, P. O'Brien), and one at Black Hills Res., *Montgomery*, 2 Jan (AR), the latter three for the Sugarloaf CBC and a record high one-day CBC total for Maryland. This invasion was the best ever for Maryland. More exciting given their recent population crash were a couple of Loggerhead Shrikes, including one at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier*, VA, 12 Feb (S. Baron) and one at Burke's Garden, Tazewell, VA 13 Feb (D.&L. Martin) and 26 Feb (H.&B. Blevins). Another shrike species was seen just s. of Frederick, *Frederick*, 16 Jan (S. J. Huy). Three White-eyed Vireos on the Dismal Swamp CBC 3 Jan came from the one area in the Region where they winter regularly. Blue-headed Vireos are more regular in winter, especially in Tidewater, VA, where they were recorded on three counts, including ten on the Dismal Swamp CBC 3 Jan. In Maryland, where much rarer, one on Rumbley Pt. Rd., *Somerset*, 30 Dec (C&DB) continued a recent string of winter reports from the Lower Eastern Shore.

Unusual so late away from the coast were four Tree Swallows on the 2 Jan Ft. Belvoir CBC and one at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C., 8 Jan (PP). Three **Cave Swallows** at Grandview Beach, Hampton, VA, 18 Dec (†BT) followed closely on the heels of November reports from Virginia's Eastern Shore and across the Northeast. Three Black-capped Chickadee at Conow. 30 Dec (EB) and one at Dameron, *Saint Mary's*, from 28 Jan (ph. PC) well into Feb were the only out-of-range birds noted. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued in fair numbers through the winter. Brown-headed Nuthatches in *Calvert* included three at Calvert Cliffs S.P. 9 Jan (CMM) and one at Lloyd Bowen Rd. 12–27 Feb (T. Bell, v.o.) were surprising, as there are only two Western Shore reports away from known nesting areas in *Saint Mary's* and the Solomon's area of Calvert, 10 mi south. The Cape Charles CBC again led the Region in House Wren numbers 30 Dec, with 30 again this year, mostly from E.S.V.N.W.R.. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers were incredibly depressed, especially obvious from CBC totals where Golden-crowned was outnumbered by Ruby-crowned. Almost no counts hit triple digits. Some exceptional Am. Robin counts came from Eastern Shore CBCs, such as 3282 from Crisfield 27 Dec, 7957 from Chincoteague 29 Dec, and 30,000 from Ocean City 28 Dec. Amazingly, Cape Charles, at the tip of the Delmarva peninsula, counted only 57 Am. Robins!

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Orange-crowned Warblers were obviously more common than usual this CBC season, with widespread reports and record-high counts of five on the Crisfield, *Somerset*, CBC 27 Dec and six on the Ocean City CBC 28 Dec. A Yellow Warbler on the Little Creek CBC 31 Dec provided one of few winter records for the Region. Good numbers of Palm Warblers were reported widely from the Coastal Plain CBCs. Other rare but regular warblers included single Black-and-white Warblers at Easton W.T.P., *Talbot*, 10 Dec (D. Kleen), on the Newport News CBC 18 Dec, and at an Annandale, VA, hummingbird feeder 23 Dec (N. Love); one Ovenbird on the Newport News CBC 30 Dec and two on the Dismal Swamp CBC 2 Jan; and single Yellow-breasted Chats at Bywater Rd., Annapolis, *Anne Arundel*, 16 Dec (BC), and at an Oxford, *Talbot*, feeder 31 Dec and in the two weeks prior (R. Stone). A female **Audubon's Warbler** at s. E. A. Vaughn W.M.A. 29 Dec (†M. O'Brien, L. Zemaitis) provided Maryland's 2nd well-documented record.

A male **Western Tanager** at a Fairhaven, *Anne Arundel*, feeder for "a couple days" around 9 Feb (v.t. S. Dobert) provided Maryland's 3rd well-documented record. A Clay-colored Sparrow near Berlin 28 Dec (GM) for the Ocean City CBC was in a productive field that was later found to host a second Clay-colored Sparrow from 1 Jan on (RFR, v.o.) and, perhaps more surprisingly and extremely rare on the coast in the Region, an Am. Tree Sparrow 9–16 Jan (JLS et al., v.o.). Generally speaking this year did not seem to be a good for Am. Tree Sparrows, though the winter storms in late Jan–Feb resulted in a spate of reports as birds were driven to backyard feeders and roadsides. Chipping Sparrows at three n. VA feeders 26 Feb (v.o.) were apparently the vanguard of a spring arrival. Fascinating were the *four* Lark Sparrow reports this winter. Maryland has three prior winter records, but this year one was at Bywater Rd., Annapolis, *Anne Arundel*, 15 Dec+ (ph. †MJI, m.ob.), one at Jug Bay Farm, *Anne Arundel*, 25 Dec–21 Jan (DBy, m.ob., ph. MJI), another off Beachville Rd., *Saint Mary's*, 23–24 Jan (†PC, AB), and one off Bristerburg Rd., *Fauquier*, 29 Jan (TMD, KG). The latter two birds were found when large numbers of sparrows were pushed to roadsides by heavy snows. The 58 Ipswich Sparrows on the Ocean City CBC 28 Dec were mostly on the n. end of Assat., where thorough coverage in recent years has been producing record counts. A Seaside Sparrow on the Pt. Lookout CBC 26 Dec was a great rarity for the Western Shore in winter. Eight Lincoln's Sparrow reports hailed from the CBC season and were split between the Piedmont and Tidewater VA. This was the winter of the **Harris's Sparrow** in the Region. The ad. at the Sykesville, *Carroll*, feeder remained through the season, while an imm. found by Stasz 30 Dec (p.a., ph., †m.ob.) at cen. E. A.

SA The rarity of the season was the ad. female **Townsend's Warbler** discovered by George Armistead (†) at Devil's Ditch, just one mile n. of Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton*, VA, on the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec. Relocated and photographed the next day (m.ob., †GLA, ph. †MJI), it remained to be seen by a number of people through at least 12 Jan. The bird was found in diverse forest along a field edge where a holly swamp met Loblolly Pine woods, with scattered Red Cedar along the edges which the bird appeared to favor. A large insect hatch was noted the day of its discovery and the location was obviously a hotspot for lingering birds, evidenced both by the expected two Blue-headed Vireos wintering in the same area and the shocking presence of different individual N. Parulas 30 Dec (BLS) and 31 Dec (ESB)!

SA The number of Le Conte's Sparrow reports this year provides an inkling that the species may winter regularly even farther north in the Region than previously thought. Maryland has only eight prior records, three that wintered, five that may have wintered, but only one obvious migrant. This year one was in a hammock in a *Spartina patens* saltmarsh at Irish Grove, *Somerset*, 4 Dec (†MJI, ph. GMJ, GM) and 27 Dec (†P. Bystrak et al.), one was near Cornfield Harbor, *Saint Mary's*, 26 Dec–6 Jan (p.a., †MJI, JLS, m.ob.), one was at central E.A. Vaughn 29 Dec (†MJI, †MH), and one was at north E. A. Vaughn W.M.A. 8 Jan (†GLA, MHa, †MJI, JLS) and again in the spring season. The last three birds were the result of focused searches for the species and all were found in similar habitat, short grass on pond or marsh edges with a substantial broomsedge (*Andropogon*) and *Panicum virgatum* component. Observers who key in on this habitat may help confirm that the species winters regularly on the Coastal Plain in Maryland (and Delaware?), especially in coastal *Worcester*. Also interestingly, the birds at Irish Grove and north E. A. Vaughn were at the exact sites of previous records, while the *Saint Mary's* bird was two miles away from that county's only prior record. The extent to which the species may use saltmarsh habitat (as at Irish Grove) is unclear. In Virginia the species was believed similarly rare until found regularly on the Back Bay CBC almost 10 years ago. This year six were found at Back Bay N.W.R. for the CBC 29 Dec (GLA et al.), while another at nearby Princess Anne W.M.A. that day (DLH) was seen through at least 17 Feb (v.o.). The individual at E.S.V.N.W.R. reported in the fall season provided a Cape Charles CBC first 30 Dec (BLS, BT).

Vaughn W.M.A. provided a first confirmed *Worcester* record; it lingered through at least 16 Jan (GMJ). Virginia had its share, too, when Gaskill discovered an ad. (†m.ob.) on Bull Run Post Office Rd. 10 Dec. and Bev Leeuwenberg et al. discovered an imm. at the same location the next day. The ad. was last reported 16 Jan (DLH), while the imm. was last found 23 Jan (K. Hollinga). The **Pink-sided Junco** reported in the Fall Season was seen to at least 29 Jan (BT, B. Williams), though it was hardly looked for after the CBC season. Lapland Longspurs were well-reported from typical areas, but a flock of 100 consorting with 50 Snow Buntings in early January at P.R.N.A.S.(KR, v.o.) was a remarkable concentration. Winter Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are unusual, but one male was at Deal 15 Dec (D&CB) and another ad. male frequented a Friendship, *Howard*, feeder from mid-Nov–16 Jan (J. McKegg). A female Painted Bunting was at Pembroke Elementary School, Virginia Beach, 27 Dec (TB). A Dickcissel in a House Sparrow flock was much-enjoyed at L. Elkhorn, Columbia, *Howard*, 9 Dec–19 Jan (SA, ph., m.ob.). Dickcissels at Kipt. (1) and E.S.V.N.W.R. (4) for the 30 Dec Cape Charles CBC made a remarkable total for this species, which is usually missed on Regional CBCs.

The single flock of 300 E. Meadowlarks in saltmarsh habitat at E. A. Vaughn W.M.A. 8 Jan (MJI et al.) was a concentration not matched in recent years. Yellow-headed Blackbirds this year included single ad. males flying by with blackbird flocks at Conow. 26 Dec and 16 Jan (EB) and ad. males at feeders in Laurel, *Howard*, 12 Dec (C.&D. Morvath) and Upper Marlboro, *Prince George's*, 30 Jan (*fide* CMM). Brewer's Blackbirds were found at Powell Rd., *Somerset*, 7 Dec (C&DB), on the Dismal Swamp CBC 3 Jan, Mulberry I., Richmond, VA, with a female 8 Jan (†F. Atwood), Pemberton Park, Salisbury, *Wicomico*, 23 Jan (SHD), and Munden Rd., Virginia Beach, where two were seen 29 Jan (AW, TG). Fifteen reports of Baltimore Oriole, 10 from CBCs, was well above average and included the high count of five on the Hopewell, VA, CBC 19 Dec.

Purple Finches were common only at the w. edges of the Region, while Pine Siskins were relatively hard to come by after the excellent fall flight. Red Crossbill reports came from seven locations and none lingered. The high was 17 at Assat. 28 Dec (MJI et al.). A flyover White-winged Crossbill was at Glen Echo, *Montgomery*, 7 Dec (DC), three flew over Bywater Rd. 17 Dec (MJI, GMJ, GM), and a male visited Baker Park, *Frederick*, 27 Dec (*fide* WLH). Others visiting feeders included a female 9 Jan (K. Darcy) in Ellicott City, *Howard*, and a male 16 Jan in Salisbury (P&ED). In Virginia. where there are far fewer records, two visited a Portsmouth feeder, where they were enjoyed 18 Dec+ (m.ob.). Of the 12 Com. Redpoll reports, the 37 that flew by Sunset Beach for the Cape Charles CBC 30 Dec (ESB, BPa) and the seven on the Lower *Kent* CBC 19 Dec were the only reports of multiples. Evening Grosbeaks were reported only five times over the winter.

Observers (area compilers in boldface): George L. Armistead, Henry T. Armistead, Stan Arnold, Tim Barry, Eirik Blom, Edward S. Brinkley, Carol & Don Broderick, Danny Bystrak, **Wallace Coffey** (Valley Birds Internet group), Barry Cooper, **Patty Craig** (*Saint Mary's*, P.O. Box 84, Lexington Park, MD 20653), Todd M. Day, Patsy & Eric Decker, Samuel H. Dyke, **Ethel Engle** (*Caroline*, MD, 20789 Dover Bridge Rd., Preston, MD 21655), Kevin Fehskens, **Sam Freiberg** (*Montgomery*, 8733 Susanna Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-4713), Kurt Gaskill, Mary Gustafson, Matt Hafner (MHa), Joe Halpin, Tom Harten, Wilbur L. Hershberger, **Jane Hill** (Voice of the Naturalist), Rob Hilton, Mark Hoffman, David L. Hughes, **George M. Jett** (*Charles*, 9505 Bland Street, Waldorf MD 20603), **Larry Lynch** (VA-BIRD Internet group), Greg Miller, Charlie M. Muise, Butch Pearce, Brian Patteson (BPa), **Elizabeth Pitney** (*Wicomico*, 7218 Walston Switch Rd., Parsonsburg, MD 21849), Andy Rabin, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert F. Ringler, **Norm Saunders** (MDOsprey Internet group), Eugene J. Scarpulla, **Jo Solem** (*Howard* 10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723), Brian L. Sullivan, Sherman Suter, Brian Taber, Hal L. Wierenga, **Les Willis** (Virginia Birdline).

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 149.

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The weather this winter was noticeably mild, with temperatures averaging above normal for most areas. There was one major exception to this pattern though, when for about three weeks starting in mid-January, cold and frozen precipitation settled in. Most of central and eastern North Carolina and upstate South Carolina and Georgia had several intense snow and ice events. The biggest storm affected central North Carolina and upstate South Carolina 24–25 January, with record snowfall in many areas. The Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, airport reported a record 20-in. accumulation! This storm followed a series of small ice/snow storms the previous week and many areas had snow/ice on the ground for over a week—an unusual event for these areas. These storms obviously affected the birds in many ways and there was much discussion about the causes of noticeably reduced populations of several species following the storms. Most obviously hit were the kinglets, wrens, creepers, pipits, warblers, and sparrows. Elsewhere, precipitation was about normal region-wide, with the exception of some of the southern areas, which experienced rather dry conditions.

Abbreviations: B.R.C. (Bird Records Committee); C. Hatt. (Cape Hatteras, NC); CBC (Christmas Bird Count); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); L.M. (Lake Mattamuskeet, NC); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The only inland Red-throated Loons were two at West Point L., GA, 3 Feb (PR et al.). Red-necked Grebe reports included singles on the Charleston, SC, CBC 28 Dec (*fide* EB), at Ft. Fisher, NC, 6 Jan (JB), and two at West Point L. dam, GA, 7 Jan (PH) until at least 6 Feb (MB). Eared Grebes were scattered throughout the Region as usual, with the best count being 17 at the S.S.S. 17 Dec (SC). A pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC, 5 Feb produced one of the best birds of the winter, a sub-ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** (BP et al.). Only about three miles off the beach, the bird was observed several times at close range in flight and sitting on the water. Photos were obtained, thus providing the first documented record for the Region (there are about three earlier unsubstantiated sight reports for North Carolina). Wintering Anhingas continue to increase in the Region. The farthest n. was one on the L.M. CBC 29 Dec (HL) and the best count was an impressive 17 on the Augusta, GA, CBC 27 Dec (*fide* AW). Long-legged waders also wintered in higher than normal numbers. An excellent total of 107 Great Egrets was had inland at the Macon, GA, brickyards 5 Dec (TI et al.). A Reddish Egret once again remained throughout December at H.B.S.P. (m.ob.), four Cattle Egrets were a surprise on the Augusta, GA, CBC 27 Dec (*fide* AW), Green Herons were found in all three states (up to seven reports), and a Black-crowned Night-Heron provided a first local winter record at Winston-Salem, NC, 28 Dec (*fide* RS). Another first local winter report was the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron near Beaufort, NC, 10 & 23 Dec (JF et al.). The Roseate Spoonbill at Hilton Head Is., SC, since the fall, was last reported on the CBC there 18 Dec (*fide* BL).

A complete surprise were three Greater White-fronted Geese on the beach (!) at St. Catherine's I., GA, 23 Jan (PS). Other reports of this species included up to 11 at Eufaula N.W.R., GA, 30 Dec (BZ et al.), and one on the Charleston, SC, CBC 28 Dec (*fide* EB). The always notable Ross's Goose was found three times in North Carolina, with singles at Beaufort 17–23 Dec (JF, v.o.), on the Pettigrew S.P. CBC 28 Dec (*fide* SH), and in *Forsyth* 27 Dec–11 Jan (*fide* RS, MM). Also of note was the discovery of an apparent *minima* Canada Goose at L.M. 12 Dec & 8 Jan (BC). This small form is rarely reported in the Region. Tundra Swan numbers seem to be getting larger each winter. There were more reports from Georgia than usual and the count of 2000 at Bear I. W.M.A., SC, 19 & 26 Feb (RC et al.) was probably a record for that state. Eurasian Wigeons included two near Charlotte, NC, 6 Jan (TL), two at Wilmington, NC, all winter (SCo, GM, v.o.), and one at P.I., NC, all winter (m.ob.). Always a good find, two Eurasian Green-winged Teal were in North Carolina, at Pee Dee N.W.R. 11 Dec (BG), and on the L.M. CBC 29 Dec (DC, RD). The only Com. Eider reports involved one at the H.B.S.P. jetty 11–30 Dec (SS, KF, v.o.) and four on the Southport, NC CBC 2 Jan (RD). Inland Surf Scoters were found more than usual, with some in all three states. And finally, Long-tailed Ducks were found far to the s., with two at Jekyll I., GA, during Jan (GK, sev. ob.).

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Very unusual for the region, a Harlan's Hawk was reported from the S.S.S. 7 Feb (SC). The description of the bird seemed to rule out any potential melanism, which would be the more likely case for a hawk in our area. Rough-legged Hawks were found in North Carolina, with one at Coddle Cr. Res. near Charlotte 6–7 Jan (TL) and two different individuals at Alligator R. N.W.R. throughout the winter (ED, m.ob.). Rare Golden Eagles included one at South I., SC, 3 Dec (V. Atkins et al.), an imm. at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC. 16 Jan (J&PW), and a sub-ad. there 19 Feb (J&PW, JPi, MT et al.). Sandhill Cranes moved through their usual Georgia migration corridor this winter and the numbers were definitely up. Many observers reported northward migrating flocks, with the peak movement being mid-Feb. The best total reported was 8000 in one day in *Houston* 18 Feb (DG). Elsewhere, more unusual reports included one wintering at the Myrtle Beach, SC, airport (present from the fall) until at least late Jan (JP), ≤4 near Hemingway, SC, late Jan–early Feb (JP), and 10 over I-26 in *Dorchester*, SC, 7 Feb (DE et al.).

Wilson's Plovers wintered in the Region in higher than normal numbers. Some of the higher totals included 16 at Jekyll I., GA, 3 Feb (GB), 13 on Little Tybee I., GA, 15 Feb (BW), eight on the St. Catherine's I., GA, CBC 18 Dec (GB), and six on the Southport, NC, CBC 2 Jan (JF, BGa). Spotted Sandpipers also wintered more than normal, with an impressive 12+ reports from across the three states.

Numbers were also high, with amazing totals such as eleven on the St. Catherine's I., GA, CBC 18 Dec (*fide* EU), seven on the *Glynn*, GA CBC 1 Jan (*fide* MC), and five on the Harris Neck N.W.R., GA, CBC 17 Dec (*fide* SC). The only Long-billed Curlews reported were two on the St. Catherine's I., GA, CBC 18 Dec (*fide* BB) and one at nearby Ossabaw I., GA, 24 Jan (RT, EH). Some noteworthy sandpiper reports included an impressive inland total of 190 Leasts on the Augusta, GA, CBC 27 Dec (*fide* AW), a late Pectoral at the S.S.S. 9 Dec (SC), up to two wintering Dunlins at E.L.H. (m.ob.), and a peak of 27 wintering Stilt Sandpipers at the S.S.S. 19 Dec (SC). Eight Long-billed Dowitchers on the Macon, GA, CBC 18 Dec (MB et al.) provided a rare inland winter sighting. Finally, a Red Phalarope was a good find just off the beach at Masonboro Inlet on the Wilmington, NC, CBC 1 Jan (RD).

Great Skuas were once again in North Carolina waters, with four off Hatteras both 5 Feb and 20 Feb (BP et al.). Jaegers made news in coastal Georgia with unusual counts of three Pomarines off Cumberland I. 8 Jan (DT) and a peak of four Parasitics at St. Catherine's I. 17 Dec (GB). The only Franklin's Gull reported was a first-winter individual found on Jekyll I., GA, 3 Dec (LT et al.), providing a rare winter sighting for that state and the Region. The always noteworthy Black-headed Gull was found twice in North Carolina, with one at Morehead City 24 Jan–23 Feb (JF, v.o.) and another at C. Hatt. 6 Feb (HW et al.). California Gull has become annual in North Carolina. This winter, one adult and one first-winter were at C. Hatt. (BP, BC, v.o.), one adult was at Oregon Inlet 9 Jan (ED), and a second-winter bird was found offshore on the 20 Feb Hatteras pelagic (BP et al.). Thayer's Gull was found only once, a first-winter bird at C. Hatt. 9 Feb (BP). Some excellent gull reports from Georgia included different first-winter Icelands at Cumberland I. 10 Jan (DT), Jekyll I. 21–28 Jan (LT, v.o.), and the West Point L. area 30–31 Jan (GB et al., v.o.); an inland Lesser Black-backed at West Point L. 30 Jan (*fide* TM); and two Glaucous, with a first-winter at Jekyll I. 24 Jan (LT et al.) and a second-winter at Sapelo I. 24 Jan (PJ et al.). In South Carolina, an Iceland was at the *Horry* landfill 19 Feb (JP et al.) and again at nearby Myrtle Beach 25 Feb (BH). That state also had Glaucous Gulls, with singles at H.B.S.P. 6 Feb (MD) and at the *Horry* landfilll 17 Feb (JP et al.). The most unusual gull sighting of the winter had to be the ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** found inland at Augusta 28 Jan (PR). If accepted by the GA B.R.C. this bird would provide one of few inland records for the state and Region. The only Razorbill report of note was an excellent total of 540 off Hatteras, NC, 20 Feb (BP et al.). Finally, a **murrelet sp.** was located above Fishing Creek Dam on the Catawba R, near Great Falls, *Chester*, SC, 23 Dec (MTu). The bird was seen off and on until at least 15 Jan by several observers, but viewing conditions were never good enough to allow definite specific identity. The bird was almost certainly a Long-billed because the previous two reports for the Carolinas pertained to *perdix*.

Two northern gulls reached southern climes in the Southern Atlantic Region. This first-winter Glaucous Gull (above) was at South Beach, Jekyll Island, Georgia, 30 Jan 2000, whereas this first-winter Iceland Gull (below) reached Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 25 Feb 2000. Photographs by Pierre Howard and Bruce Hallett, respectively.

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

Only one White-winged Dove report was received, of one at an Atlantic, *Carteret*, NC, feeder in early Dec (*fide* JF). The rare, secretive Long-eared Owl was found several times this winter. One was on the Charleston, SC, CBC 28 Dec (*fide* EB), one was heard at Simpsonville, SC, 29 Dec (PWo), and one was found on the Greenville, NC, CBC 2 Jan (*fide* J&PW). Hummingbirds were again present in all three states this winter. The highlights (other than the usual Ruby-throateds and Rufous) included North Carolina's first documented-by-banding **Black-chinned Hummingbird** at Hampstead 15 Jan–Feb (PB, m.ob.); South Carolina's first **Calliope Hummingbird**, an imm. male banded in Greer 4 Dec–29 Feb+ (J&CWe, m. ob.); and Georgia's second Calliope Hummingbird, that wintered in *Fayette*, although word of this individual did not reach birders until spring (*fide* JH).

Without question, the bird of the season was the **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** found near Jordan L., *Chatham*, NC, 15 Jan (HL, JPi, v.o.). Photos and voice recordings were made as the bird was seen by various

observers until at least 21 Jan. Obviously a "Western" type *Empidonax*, debate ensued as to the ability to definitely identify a wintering Western by winter calls and notes. This individual definitely favored voice playbacks of Pacific-slope over Cordilleran in its response times. Pending acceptance by the NC B.R.C., this bird would represent a state and Regional first. Always noteworthy any time in the Region, a female Vermilion Flycatcher was found at Lakeland, near Valdosta, GA, in early Feb by visiting birders and remained until at least 27 Feb (BB et al.). Following closely on the heels of the fall sighting at Bodie Pond, NC, another Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at the nearby n. P.I. area 12 Dec (J&PW et al., JL, KW), providing the 5th report for that state! Very rare winter sightings of Great Crested Flycatcher included one at Roanoke I., NC, 5 Dec (JL) and one on the McClellanville, SC, CBC 22 Dec (*fide* PN). Also of note in winter, W. Kingbirds were on the Okefenokee, GA, CBC 30 Dec (SW) and at Savannah, GA, 1 Jan (OAS).

Cave Swallows continued their influx this winter. One was at Troutman, *Iredell*, NC, 20 Dec (D&LM, D&ED'O), and one was picked up sick (and died the next day) at Ft. Macon, *Carteret*, NC, 2 Dec (*fide* JG). The specimen turned out to be of the southwestern race *pallida*, consistent with most of the other Cave Swallows identified north of Florida in the winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were down somewhat from the promising fall migration period. Only scattered ones remained for the winter. Wren and kinglet numbers were about average, except in areas that received the snow/ice storms of mid-Jan. There, numbers dropped substantially, either from birds moving on to more hospitable areas, or more likely due to mortality during the lengthy period of harsh conditions. The weather also affected pipits, as evidenced by the report of 550 Am. Pipits flying along the beach at N. Topsail I., NC, 25 Jan (JC). South Carolina's 9th Sprague's Pipit report involved one well-seen with Am. Pipits on the Santee, SC, CBC 2 Jan (*fide* LG).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Lingering or wintering warblers were reported much more than usual this season. Some of the highlights included a Nashville on the Wilmington, NC, CBC 1 Jan (*fide* SCo); N. Parulas on the L.M. CBC 29 Dec (HL) and the Savannah River Site, SC, CBC 16 Dec (*fide* CE); a Yellow on the Spartanburg, SC, CBC 30 Dec (*fide* LC); a Cape May at Ft. Fisher, NC, 5 Jan (GM); Black-throated Greens on the *Wayne*, NC, CBC 18 Dec (JF) and the Southport, NC, CBC 2 Jan (JB); and an Audubon's at L.M. 15 Jan (DS et al.). Also, the slightly-more-expected wintering warblers such as Yellow-throated (eight reports totaling 16 birds), Prairie (four totaling 7), Black-and-white (15 totaling 35), Ovenbird (three singles), Wilson's (eight singles), and Yellow-breasted Chat (three totaling four), were all found in higher than normal numbers.

Rare wintering Clay-colored Sparrows included one on the Morehead City, NC, CBC Dec. 19 (RD) and one on the Greenville, NC, CBC 2 Jan (*fide* J&PW). Vesper Sparrows have been increasingly hard to find in the Region the last several years. Thus, the count of 102 on the Santee N.W.R., SC, CBC 2 Jan (*fide* LG) was impressive. Always noteworthy in the winter, a Lark Sparrow was a good find on the St. Catherine's I., GA, CBC 18 Dec (*fide* BB). Three Grasshopper Sparrows was a good total at Sandhills N.W.R., SC, 18 Dec (D&LM et al.). Henslow's Sparrows were found in good numbers in South Carolina and Georgia, with the best counts being 17 at Paulk's Pasture, *Glynn*, GA, 18 Jan (GB et al.), 11 in *McIntosh*, GA, 18 Jan (GB et al.), and six north of Walterboro, SC, 22 Dec (MTu). Le Conte's Sparrows were also present this winter in amazing numbers, including 36 on the Santee N.W.R., SC, CBC 2 Jan (*fide* LG), ten on the New Bern, NC, CBC 20 Dec (*fide* BHo), seven in *Mecklenburg*, NC, 19 Feb (ST et al.), and five on the Macon, GA, CBC 18 Dec (*fide* JA). Lincoln's Sparrow reports were about normal across the Region, typically with one–two individuals being found in scattered locations. The only Lapland Longspurs reported were a group of five at Ft. Bragg, *Hoke*, NC, 17 Dec (PC). The best Snow Bunting reports included a good count of 37 at C. Hatt. 20 Dec (JAl), 11 at Ft. Fisher, NC, 4 Dec (JB), and a rare inland bird at L. Wylie, SC, 18 Dec to at least mid-Jan (*fide* RC, m.ob.). Rare winter Dickcissels were found twice in South Carolina, with one at Myrtle Beach 30 Dec–2 Jan (P&STu) and another at Santee N.W.R. 6 Feb (TK).

In the complete surprise department was the Bobolink found at Bear I. W.M.A., SC, 28 Jan (PWo), surely a wintering bird. Rusty Blackbirds were present in higher-than-normal numbers, with some of the better counts being 400 in *Lanier*, GA, throughout the winter (*fide* BB), 350 on the Durham, NC, CBC 19 Dec (WC), and 258 on the Raven Rock S.P., NC, CBC 18 Dec (*fide* PHa). Brewer's Blackbirds were also found in good numbers, the best total being 108 near Gary, *Newberry*, SC, 19 Feb (LG). Red Crossbills were found in several places; the best reports involved an impressive flock of 64 at the Pine Log Mt. W.M.A., GA, 12 Dec (GB et al.), 20 s. of Ebenezer Pt. Jordan L., NC, 2 Jan (WC et al.), and 16 along Big Woods Rd., Jordan L., NC, 9 Jan (*fide* WC); one along the coast was a complete surprise on the Southport, NC, CBC 2 Jan (GM). Reports of Com. Redpoll included one photographed at a feeder in Columbia, SC, 21 Feb (JGr), one in Clemmons, NC, 8 Jan (*fide* RS), and one in Durham, NC, 19–20 Feb (*fide* WC). As is often the case with redpolls in our area, none remained to be seen by other observers. The other winter finches (Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak) were present across the Region but in small numbers and were quite localized, thus giving the impression that the winter flight was rather poor once again.

CORRIGENDUM

The corrigendum pertaining to MacGillivray's Warbler in *N. Am. Birds* 53:376 was in error. It should read as follows: In *N. Am. Birds* 53:45, the MacGillivray's Warbler at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, furnished the third Regional report. The first definitive Regional record was of one banded at Jekyll I., GA, 2 Oct 1987 (D. Cohrs). The second was of one reported from the Atlanta, GA, area in the 1980s (Manns).

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The region again experienced above-normal temperatures throughout most of the season as well as exceptionally dry conditions. The Orlando area reached freezing temperatures on only one night. By the end of February most central Florida counties were under fire alert. The waters in Newnans Lake and Paynes Prairie State Preserve, near Gainesville, receded, creating mudflats and pools. These attracted species of shorebirds that do not regularly winter there and greater-than-normal numbers of American White Pelicans, Bald Eagles, and gulls that fed on concentrations of living and dead fish. The lake bed of Lake Jackson near Tallahassee, exposed when the lake drained into a limestone sink last fall, also provided mudflat and prairie conditions that attracted the same guild of birds as seen near Gainesville. Throughout the season and along both coasts, Northern Gannets were noted feeding close to shore, just beyond the surf. American Robins, American Goldfinches, and Cedar Waxwings were noted in smaller numbers than usual. The numbers of Western Kingbirds and Vermilion, Ash-throated, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the central peninsula continued to increase. The usual medley of western birds that winter in Florida was joined by a Cassin's Kingbird and a Townsend's Warbler. With such a mild season, the variety and numbers of sparrows were surprising, as were the first confirmed records of two tundra species, Snowy Owl and Rough-legged Hawk.

Abbreviations: C.P. (*County Park*), C.S.S. (*Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary*), E.N.P. (*Everglades N.P.*), F.O.C. (*Field Observations Committee*), F.O.S.R.C. (*Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee*), G.R.S.P. (*Guana River S.P.*), H.B.C.F.(*Hammock/Black Creek Fields, Miami-Dade*), H.P.M. (*Hamilton phosphate mines*), L.A.R.A. (*Lake Apopka Restoration Area*), M.I.N.W.R. (*Merritt Island N.W.R.*), P.P.M. (*Polk County phosphate mines*), P.P.S.P. (*Paynes Prairie State Preserve*), S.M.N.W.R. (*St. Marks N.W.R.*), S.R.A. (*State Recreation Area*), S.T.F. (*Sewage Treatment Facility, Leon*), T.B.S. (*Tangerine Bird Sanctuary, Orange*).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A rare Pac. Loon was reported at Alligator Point, *Franklin*, 14 Jan and 26 Feb, and up to eight Red-throated Loons wintered in the same area (JD). Other Red-throateds were at G.R.S.P. 1 Dec (NOW) and farther s. at M.I.N.W.R., *Brevard*, 23 Feb (LaM). Whereas small numbers of Com. Loons and Horned Grebes occur inland on large bodies of water in the n. and cen. peninsula, counts of 28 loons and 484 grebes on L. Weir, *Alachua*, 30 Jan, were record-setting (ES). Four to six Eared Grebes were reported at P.P.M., early Jan–25 Jan (CG, BH), while a single bird remained in S. Miami from 12 Feb through the season (JV, K. Sarsfield, JHB et al.).

The only report of a procellariid was of two Sooty Shearwaters off Port Canaveral 11 Feb (B. Bratlie). From "several" to 700 N. Gannets appeared on most daily lists throughout the season along both coasts from St. George I., *Franklin*, to *Volusia* (m.ob.). These birds remained close to shore, perhaps a La Niña phenomenon. A probable White × Scarlet Ibis hybrid at E.N.P. 13 Jan (BP) almost certainly represents the "pink" result of the occasional interbreeding of wild White Ibis with any of the numerous captive Scarlet Ibis, rather than a remnant of the unsuccessful attempt to introduce the latter species in 1961. Roseate Spoonbills continued to winter n. along the Gulf coast to S.M.N.W.R., where ≤3 were reported (VPL, J. Mullins). A new winter n. inland limit was established when two were found on the Gainesville CBC (RR). On 29 Feb 6–8 pairs of spoonbills were reported nesting in the breeding colony of 1300 Wood Storks at C.S.S., *Collier* (J. Neely), where the former species nested last summer for the only time in the 20th century (RTP). The escaped Greater Flamingo first reported last summer in Sarasota Bay was last reported 12 Dec (A. Bishop). Another flamingo of dubious origin was reported in Homestead, *Miami-Dade*, in Nov or Dec (LaM). Considered by many authorities to be a population of wild birds, 32 was the high count of Greater Flamingos from Snake Bight, E.N.P., 19 Dec and 1 Jan, where the species winters regularly (JHB, JV et al.).

With a population growing and expanding its range, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen as far n. as P.P.S.P., where six were found 12 Dec (JHi, H. Adams). The frequency of sightings in *Alachua* could indicate the presence of a permanent population there (RR). The epicenter of the population continues to be *Sarasota*, where approximately 500 wintered in the Venice area alone (A. Rawson). Geese made a modest showing, with the largest group of Snow Geese being 48 at P.P.S.P. until 1 Jan (JHi); thirteen used L.A.R.A. as a stopover on 7 Dec (HR), while a single bird was reported s. at Auburndale, *Polk*, 17 Dec (CG). The Ross's Goose at Hunter Springs Park, *Citrus*, in residence since last winter, was reported through the winter (BAh, WB). A Canada Goose briefly joined the Ross's 17 Jan (DG et al.). Single Canadas appeared at Sanford, *Seminole*, 5–7 Feb (KL) and Kissimmee R. lock, *Highlands/Okeechobee*, 6 Feb (DM), and 4 wintered in inland *Pasco* (D. Bournemann et al.). A lone Brant appeared at a St. Augustine golf course 18 Jan (D. Reed).

A count of approximately 10,000 Lesser Scaup was reported from Peace R. harbor 10 Dec (JeB), and an estimate of 500,000 came from M.I.N.W.R. 30 Dec (D. Fellers, PF). Of nearly annual occurrence at the ship-turning basin at Port Canaveral, a total of three Com. Eiders appeared in Jan, with two remaining through the period (m.ob.). Up to four Long-tailed Ducks were seen at G.R.S.P. 1–12 Dec (NOW). Reports of the three scoter species came from coastal *Franklin* (m.ob.), with 150 Black Scoters 4 Jan (PF, B. Henry). Elsewhere, there were 100 of the latter at G.R.S.P. 12 Dec (NOW), one Surf off Jacksonville Beach, *Duval*, 17 Dec (NOW), and one at Gulfport pier, *Pinellas*, 18–29 Dec (RS, M. Wilkinson). Rare inland, a White-winged Scoter at the phosphate mines near Bradley Junction, *Polk*, remained from early Dec–early Jan (CG). A count of 73 Buffleheads at L. Weir 30 Jan established a new record-high inland count for the peninsula (ES). Not common anywhere in the state and irregular in the interior, ≤3 Com. Goldeneyes wintered in Gainesville, remain-

ing through 18 Feb (RR, D. Wahl). Along the coasts there was one at N. Jacksonville, *Duval*, 26 Dec–30 Jan (RoC), and 14 along the *Citrus* coast near Fort I. 17–23 Jan (MG, C. Kelsey). A high inland count of 27 Red-breasted Mergansers, a predominantly coastal species, was noted at L. Weir 30 Jan (ES, I. Franzen).

Swallow-tailed Kites and Short-tailed Hawks are notoriously early migrants. The kite, which winters in South America, was first reported 17 Feb, not a particularly early date, at Babcock-Webb W.M.A, *Charlotte* (VPL). Short-tailed Hawk usually winters from the vicinity of L. Okeechobee and south, however, a wintering bird was found n. at Tiger Creek Preserve, *Polk*, 2 Jan (*fide* TP); elsewhere individuals in *Polk* 9 Feb (L. Lane, M. Chakan et al.) and 19 Feb (PF), and in *Highlands* 19 Feb (B. Ackerman) may have been wintering or early migrants. Three early migrants were reported at Lower Wekiva Preserve, *Seminole/Lake*, 28 Feb (LoM). Up to six White-tailed Kites wintered at H.B.C.F. (JHB et al.).

Attracted by trapped and dying fish as the water levels fell at P.P.S.P., 25 Bald Eagles were counted 19 Dec (RR). Single Broad-winged Hawks wintered n. to M.I.N.W.R. (BAh), L.A.R.A. 18 Jan (HR), and E. Lake Park, *Hillsborough* (DoW, LS). Following a summer rodent plague near Zellwood, *Orange*, hawks were abundant at L.A.R.A. One dark-morph Swainson's Hawk joined the "kettle" from late Dec–21 Jan. About 60 Red-tailed Hawks wintering at L.A.R.A. included normal as well as pale and dark-morph birds. They topped most of the utility poles and woody shrubs in the overgrown fields, causing much speculation as to what races and morphs of other species might be present. There was great excitement when at least three **Rough-legged Hawks** were identified 16 Feb+, with at least two dark-morph individuals and one light-morph imm. photographed, establishing the first verified occurrence in the state (HR, m.ob., ph. KR to F.O.S.R.C.). More than 60 unverified reports have been made since 1939! Another report of this species came from the Lower Wekiva Preserve 28 Feb (LoM).

RAILS THROUGH LARIDS

Two Black Rails were in *Hernando* 27 Dec (BAh et al.). A Purple Gallinule discovered at Wakulla Springs S.P. 6 Feb probably wintered (VPL). On 19 Dec an all-time high count of 5035 Sandhill Cranes in the Gainesville area included a congregation of 4882 at P.P.S.P. (DaH). Individuals of Florida's introduced Whooping Crane population, numbering 87 at the time of this report, were reported away from the primary release areas in *Pasco*, *Hillsborough*, *Lake*, and *St. Lucie* (W. Stinehelfer, *fide* DHu, BP, LSA, DHu, DB). The low water levels of Newnans L. created mudflats and attracted an unprecedented number of shorebirds, including several species that are rare inland in winter, especially in the north: Black-bellied Plover, W. and Stilt Sandpipers, and Dunlin (RR, MMa). A female Ruff remained 12 Jan+ (RR, BM et al.) for one of the state's few winter reports. Elsewhere, a Black-bellied Plover was seen at L. Jackson, *Leon*, 16 Dec (R. West, GM); up to 38 wintered at L.A.R.A. (HR). An Am. Golden-Plover was found feeding among Black-bellied Plovers at E.N.P. at Snake Bight 3 Feb (SE, KeA). Rare on the Atlantic coast was a Snowy Plover at Talbot Island S.P., *Duval*, 10 Dec–3 Feb (P. Leary, NOW et al.). Far n. of its usual winter range, a lone Black-necked Stilt was a surprise at H.P.M 18 Dec (JK). Also of casual status in the n. part of the state in winter, an Am. Avocet was found at Newnans L., where it remained through the period (RR). Five avocets were seen at L. Jackson 5 Dec (GM), while others were noted in the Big Bend in Jan at S.M.N.W.R. (VPL) and Alligator Harbor (*fide* BBe). Lone Solitary Sandpipers were at P.P.S.P. 7 Jan (MMe), *Sarasota* 22–25 Jan (JeB), Ft. Myers 9 Feb (VPL), while two were in Kendall 19–20 Jan (JHB). From *Pinellas* came reports of 1–2 Whimbrels at two locations (VPL, RaW), and as many Long-billed Curlews at three locations (P. Blair). A late Hudsonian Godwit was found at Hillsborough Bay, *Hillsborough*, 19 Dec (RTP, A. Schnapf). A lone Ruddy Turnstone was inland along the St. Johns River near Geneva, *Seminole/Volusia*, 26 Dec (LoM). A late Pectoral Sandpiper turned up on 10 Dec at Tram Road S.T.F., *Leon*, (GM), and two Stilt Sandpipers were at S.M.N.W.R. 15 Jan (C. Hess, J. Reinman). Purple Sandpipers appeared in numbers along the e. coast, with ≤11 present through 28 Jan in *Nassau* (NOW, T. Wamer, KeA), and as many as five at Smyrna Dunes Park, *Volusia*, through 26 Jan (WB, BP, KR). Rare anywhere on the Gulf Coast, one was seen by visiting Georgia birders (J. Pappas) 28 Nov at F.D.C.P., *Pinellas*. Again this winter 1–2 male Am. Woodcocks performed courtship flights at the Croom Tract in the Withlacoochee State Forest, *Hernando*, 13 Dec–6 Jan (BH). Fourteen Red Phalaropes were seen from a boat off Mayport, *Duval*, 2 Jan (RoC).

Two rare Franklin's Gulls wintered near the Gulf; adults were inland at L. Jackson 1–9 Jan (JCa, G.&S. Hampton) and among Laughing Gulls on Redington Beach 13 Dec+ (JF). A probable **California Gull**, casual in Florida, was identified near East Point, *Franklin*, 11–14 Dec (HoH, T. Kennedy, S. Wright, ph. JCa to F.O.S.R.C.). Rarely seen inland in Florida, a first-year Black-headed Gull appeared at Newnans L. 15 Jan (MMa). Another one-day wonder was an ad. at the Orange Co. E. Water Reclamation Facility 26 Dec (S. Dodgson, ph. F.O.S. Archives). Each bird associated with flocks of 150+ Bonaparte's Gulls. Except along the Big Bend where there were no reports, Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported along both coasts. Only one turned up inland, at L. Kissimmee, *Osceola*, 16 Jan (JHB). Great Black backed Gulls are rare along the Gulf Coast, where they are expected only in *Pinellas*; this year single birds were reported from three localities in that county (RaW, JF, RS). Rare along the cen. Florida coasts in winter, two Gull-billed Terns were observed in *Hernando* 27 Dec (BP), with one in Pasco 1 Jan (KT, ph. to F.O.C.). One was also seen inland at P.P.M. 6 Feb, while 24 Royal Terns were counted there 8 Jan, a high number for an inland location (CG, P. Timmer).

SA During the winter of 1999–2000 Noel Wamer conducted regular seawatches from a number of locations in southern *Duval* and northern *St. Johns* on the state's northern Atlantic Coast. The results of this study show that both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers are regular components of the area's nearshore birdlife throughout the winter. No relationship between jaeger observations and storms was found. In fact, the only watches during which jaegers were not observed were periods of windy weather and rough seas following the passage of cold fronts. Obtaining accurate counts of jaegers was difficult, since the birds were foraging over wide areas and multiple observations of the same individuals were likely. However, estimates were made of as many as 15 individuals during 30-minute watches. It was clear that Pomarines outnumbered Parasitics, probably by a factor of more than three to one. The majority of birds of both species were in adult/sub-adult plumage. There were five additional reports of 1–2 Parasitic Jaegers identified from shore in *Pasco* and *Pinellas* 13 Jan–10 Feb (W. Yusek, E. Kwater).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Ringed Turtle-Dove was being bullied by Eur. Collared-Doves at S. Ft. Myers 14 Dec (V. McGrath). A CBC total of 160 Eur. Collared-Doves in Gainesville 19 Dec (*fide* BM) indicates the species is thriving there. With populations firmly established in *Orange*, *Seminole*, and *Volusia*, a White-winged Dove at a Minneola feeder in *Lake*, where not yet reported to breed, was not surprising. Along the coast of the Big Bend and s. to *Hillsborough* where the species occurs only in winter, one was near Valrico 18 Feb (SB), two in *Pasco* 26 Jan (DB), and one at E. Point (SB, DB, K. Avera, JD). *Pasco* is the epicenter of Florida's scattered Budgerigar populations; 52 were counted at Bayonet Pt., while farther s. three were at Anna Maria I., *Manatee*, 25 Dec (L. Snyder). Monk Parakeets are established in most metropolitan areas in the cen. and s. peninsula; several were observed "carrying nesting material" in *Pinellas* 5 Dec, indicating that nest-building occurs year round here (N. Ogden). Although more local in distribution, Black-hooded Parakeets were seen in *Broward*, *Sarasota*, and *Pinellas*; 139 were counted on the St. Petersburg CBC and 50 in Sarasota 18 Dec (C. Everly). Casual in the peninsula, single Groove-billed Anis were noted at L.A.R.A. 8 Feb (HR) and Bonita Springs, Lee, 12–16 Dec (LD). Florida's 2nd newly confirmed species this season was a **Snowy Owl** that foraged along the beaches of St. George I. S.P. and Bald Pt., *Franklin*, 8 Dec–9 Jan (m.ob.). Short eared Owls invaded *Leon*, *Wakulla*, *Citrus*, *Alachua*, *Orange*, *Sarasota*, and *Miami-Dade*, where ≤4 remained at H.B.C.F. through the winter (m.ob., ph. JCa to F.O.S.R.C.). As many as a dozen nighthawks were reported at Eco Pond (E.N.P.) this season; four were identified as Lesser Nighthawks 25–26 Jan (DSi). The first "singing" Chuck-will's-widow was heard in Naples, *Collier*, 23 Feb (HM).

A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was seen 5–16 Dec near Wellington, *Palm Beach* (*fide* D. Hull); this location is not far from where one bird spent several winters in the early 1990s. Far n. of their usual wintering area in south Florida, three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds wintered in Tallahassee, including an ad. male (JCa et al.). Others were identified in *Alachua*, *Volusia*, and *Polk* (PBu, J. Misiaszek, HaH). Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in *Leon* (four), *Alachua* (one), *Pasco* (one), and *Orange* (one) (HaH, JCa, P. Conover, J. O'Malley, D. Beatty, JF, HR). The only *Selasphorous* report came from *Alachua*, where three wintered, including an ad. male Rufous (BR, E. Perry, D. Fagan).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Flycatchers made an unusually good showing. Least Flycatchers wintered n. to *Pinellas* and *Orange* (LSA). Reports of Vermilion Flycatchers came from *Alachua*, *Brevard*, *Volusia*, *Seminole*, *Orange*, and *Highlands/Okeechobee* at the Kissimmee R. (v.o.). Ash-throated Flycatchers wintered at L.A.R.A. in at least five locations, including three 23 Feb (ph. BP to F.O.C., GB, JeB, BAh, ES, C. Radamaker, KR, HR et al.). Other individuals were reported at Bald Pt. 2 Jan–3 Feb (J.&D. Houle, BH) and Brooker Creek Preserve, *Pinellas*, 26 Dec (RS, AuS). Great Crested Flycatcher reports in *Alachua* 19 Feb (PBu) and 20 Feb (G. Jones) are most likely early migrants. Brown-crested Flycatcher reports came from E.N.P., where one was seen at Anhinga Trail 4 Dec (*fide* JHB) and at Snake Bight 14 Jan (RS). Western Kingbirds wintered in good numbers and were reported inland n. to L.A.R.A. (m.ob.) and along the Gulf Coast n. to Cedar Key, *Levy* (D. Henderson). Impressive numbers remained throughout the period at L.A.R.A. for a second winter, with 31 seen on one day in Feb (HR). Joining these birds at L.A.R.A. was a **Cassin's Kingbird** 4 Dec–29 Feb (HR et al., ph. KR, BP to F.O.C.); there are fewer than 10 records/reports in Florida. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers wintered n. to *Hillsborough*, *Pasco*, and *Hernando* (v.o.) and as many as five remained through the season at L.A.R.A. (HR, GB, BP, SR et al.).

Casual in winter, a Bell's Vireo was identified at L.A.R.A. 6–16 Feb (HR). The first Purple Martin, seen at Bald Pt. 9 Jan, was early for the Big Bend (J. Stevenson). At H.B.C.F., 22 Cave Swallows were present 5 Dec and 230 were there 26 Jan (JHB); ≤6 were at E.N.P. 9–20 Jan (BBo, E. Kwater). Casual in winter, Barn Swallows were seen at S.M.N.W.R. (2) 23 Dec (VPL et al.), Springhill Road S.T.F. 17 Jan (GM), and L.A.R.A. beginning 16 Feb (HR); the last bird was probably an early migrant. A Carolina Chickadee at Boyd Hill Nature Park, *Pinellas*, 18 Dec–29 Feb was slightly s. of the species' range (RS et al.). One to three Brown Creepers were seen in *Leon*, *Gadsden*, and *Wakulla*, while one at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve, *Alachua*, 12 Dec–25 Feb was unusual (MMa, PBu, et al.). Winter Wrens penetrated the n. peninsula south to Newnans L., where three were seen 6 Jan–1 Feb (MMa, LD et al.). Golden-crowned Kinglets staged a minor invasion; 1–2 were seen south to *Orange*, *Seminole/Lake*, *Pinellas*, and *Polk* (HR, LoM, J&LH et al.). Rare in winter, a Wood Thrush was found in Naples 2 Jan (K&TD).

A late Nashville Warbler was seen in Ft. Myers 6–7 Dec; reports of single Nashvilles came from M.I.N.W.R. 13–21 Feb (CPa, DSi) and Turkey Creek Sanctuary, *Brevard*, 14 Feb+ (DSi et al.) and may have been early migrants rather than wintering. A wintering or very early N. Parula was in w. *Gadsden* 28 Jan (GM). Rare single Magnolia Warblers were seen during the season in *Pasco* 6 Dec (DB), Lloyd Beach S.R.A., *Broward*, 11 Dec (SE), Lower Wekiva Preserve, *Seminole/Lake*, 31 Dec (LoM), and in E.N.P., Snake Bight 2 Jan (BBo) and Royal Palm Hammock 2–14 Jan (VPL et al., RS). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was found at Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site 15 Feb (VPL, MG). Black-throated Green Warblers wintered n. to *Brevard*, *Pinellas*, and *Duval* (v.o.). A male **Townsend's Warbler**, casual in the state, was found at M.I.N.W.R. 19 Feb+ (CPa, m.ob.). A late Blackburnian Warbler visited Gainesville 2 Dec (J. Taylor), while farther n. a Prairie Warbler wintered in s. Jacksonville 3 Dec–29 Feb (PP). American Redstarts were reported n. to Tallahassee (one on 20 Jan; HoH) and Gainesville (two, one that was observed throughout the season; MMa, AK, RR). Worm-eating Warblers wintered at Lloyd Beach S.R.A. (SE, video to F.O.C.) and Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P., (VPL et al., JeB). Lone N. Waterthrushes wintered n. to *Hillsborough* (RTP) and L.A.R.A. (HR). Totally unexpected, two Hooded Warblers were seen in different areas of P.P.S.P., a male 16 Jan (M. Rose) and a female 11 Feb (AK). Another report of this casual winterer came from and E.N.P. 14 Jan (JeB). Rare but regular throughout the state in winter, Wilson's Warblers were especially numerous (v.o.): *Leon* (two), *Duval* (one), *Alachua* (eight), *Orange* (one), *Brevard* (one), *Pasco* (one), *Highlands* (one), and *Miami-Dade* (one). Solitary Yellow-breasted Chats were seen in *Alachua*, *Seminole*, *Miami-Dade*, and *Monroe* (RR, BHA, BBo, JHB et al.). The Bananaquit first reported last fall at Birch State Park was last seen 2 Dec (W. George). Summer Tanagers, rare but regular, were reported from *Collier*, *Hillsborough*, *Palm Beach*, and *Hernando* (K&TD, P. Jonas, BBo, AH, BH). Very rare, a W. Tanager was found at Melrose, *Alachua*, 18 Feb (B. Lever).

Sparrows were plentiful throughout the central portion of the state. Many rare to uncommon species were locally uncommon to common this winter. Just n. of L.A.R.A. at T.B.S., two fields were hopping with Sedge Wrens and at least seven sparrow species that remained through the season. Clay-colored Sparrows, once considered rare, were identified in *Hamilton*, *Duval*,

Seminole, *Orange*, *Polk*, and *Miami-Dade* (v.o.); the high report of nine, in *Polk* 30 Jan (CG et al.), does not compare to the flock of 46 birds last year at L.A.R.A., where this season's high count was three 28 Feb (HR). Vesper Sparrow reports included highs of 20 at T.B.S. 31 Jan (DSi et al.) and 15 at L.A.R.A. 29 Feb (HR). The only report of a Lark Sparrow came from *Polk* 2 Jan (*fide* TP). Grasshopper Sparrows were widely distributed and in normal numbers in the peninsula; one was reported in the Big Bend at Springhill Road S.T.F. 8 Feb (GM). The secretive Henslow's Sparrow, often overlooked, was reported from the Tallahassee area (several, 17 Jan; MG), Apalachicola N.F., *Liberty* (five, 10 Dec; DoW, LS), P.P.S.P. (≤12, 4 Dec–1 Jan; JHi et al.), and from Santa Fe Swamp W.M.A., *Bradford* (28 Dec; D. Cimbaro). In *Pasco*, single Henslow's were seen at Withlacoochee C.P. 28 Dec, e. of Dade City 5–21 Dec (RS, AuS), and at Crews Lake C.P. 27 Dec (DRo, T. Rogers et al.). Six Le Conte's Sparrows were carefully identified at T.B.S. 22 Dec+ (K. Allen, BHA, A.&T. Mason, ph. LSA, m.ob.). Although the total number of Le Conte's was probably greater than six, the size of the fields, abundance of grasses, and large numbers of other species, especially Grasshopper Sparrows, made an accurate census of the entire area impossible. Elsewhere, single birds were reported at S.M.N.W.R. 18 Dec (*fide* K. NeSmith); H.P.M. 21 Dec and Lake City, *Columbia*, 24 Dec (JK); and P.P.S.P. 18 Dec (DoW, LS) and 1 Jan (JHi, MMa et al.). A Fox Sparrow was seen in rural *Hamilton* 18 Dec (JK), while two remained at P.P.S.P. 4 Dec–1 Jan (JHi et al.). There were only four reports of single Song Sparrows s. to *Pinellas* (RS, AuS), whereas the usually rarer Lincoln's Sparrow was reported from *Leon*, *Hamilton*, *Alachua*, and *Orange* (v.o.), with a high of three in the Tallahassee area. White-throated Sparrows continue to be scarce in the peninsula, with reports coming from *Alachua* and *Polk* only (DoW, LS, VPL). Flocks of up to 12 White-crowned Sparrows were widespread and found in *Nassau*, *Hamilton*, *Alachua*, *Orange*, *Pinellas*, and *Polk* (v.o.). Single Dark-eyed Juncos wintered s. to *Alachua*, where three were found throughout that county; even in the Big Bend only single birds were noted (GM). Up to three Blue Grosbeaks wintered at L.A.R.A. (HR). Two Painted Buntings were found n. of the species usual winter range in *Alachua* 19 Feb+ (BR, MMa). Dickcissels are rare but regular in the winter; following last summer's breeding record at L.A.R.A., it is surprising that the only report was of a bird that visited a Valrico, *Hillsborough*, feeder 2–18 Dec (SB).

Lone Yellow-headed Blackbirds wintered in *Hernando*, *Pasco*, *Polk*, *Osceola*, *Charlotte*, and *Collier* (v.o.). A report of two from *Orange* and a total of 68 Rusty Blackbirds from two locations in *Alachua* were the extent of this species invasion into the peninsula(CP, Jhi, C. Lanciani, G. Kiltie et al.). Irregular in winter, one Brewer's Blackbird was discovered at Clearwater, *Pinellas*, 26 Dec (DG, E. Haney et al.). Rare inland, a Shiny Cowbird was found in a flock of Brown-headeds at a pig farm in Zellwood 11–19 Feb (KR, CP). Elsewhere, at the feeders at Briggs Nature Center, *Collier*, the only sure place to find these invaders in winter, the high count was four on 21 and 25 Feb (HM). Bronzed Cowbirds were rather widely distributed in the w. peninsula (v.o.), where reports came from *Pasco* (one), *Polk* (21), *Charlotte* (two), and *Collier* (five). Rare in winter, a hatch-year male Orchard Oriole wintered at L.A.R.A. (JeB et al., HR). In the peninsula the House Finch is invading not only from the n. but from presumed escapes in s. Florida. From the north, a female found its way to e. of Dade City 21 Dec (AuS, RS, BAh et al.) for the 2nd county report; four at Haines City, *Polk*, 15 Feb were presumably from the south (A.&H. Wheaton). The only Pine Siskin reported was one at Cedar Key 1 Feb (DaH, B. Lever).

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ontario

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The weather this year was mild until mid-January, very cold until mid-February, and then moved into an unusually early spring. From 1997 through Feb 2000, precipitation was 10-15% less than usual in Ontario, resulting in record-low water levels in the Great Lakes. Late departures in December and early arrivals in February were once again the order of the day. Lester Pearson airport in Toronto and most other Ontario weather reporting stations recorded their 28th consecutive month with above-average temperatures. Winter finches and owls were scarce, but a few exceptional rarities in the Toronto-Hamilton region more than made up for it.

Abbreviations: Pelee (*Pt. Pelee N.P. and vicinity, Essex*); P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point, Prince Edward*), Algonquin (*Nipissing*), Presqu'ile (*Northumberland*), and Rondeau (*Kent*) are Provincial Parks. C.A. refers to a conservation area.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loon reports were plentiful: three in Hamilton Harbour 7 Dec (KAM), where one remained until 9 Jan (RZD, BNC); Kingston had three with one on 8 Jan at P.E.Pt. (JHE, RDW) being record-late. Even better was the Pacific Loon seen off Wolfe I. 19 Dec (GFV, RDW). There were 10 Horned Grebes at Fifty Point 9 Jan (KAM, WGL, GMN), and four more in Hamilton Harbour 24 Feb (RZD et al.). A Red-necked Grebe remained in Hamilton Harbour 16–24 Feb (BKW et al.); unusually far n. was the individual at Deer Bay on Buckhorn L. (PB) 10 Dec. An Eared Grebe (JF, HK) discovered 21 Dec was enjoyed by many as it remained at Humber Bay East in Toronto until 12 Jan. Singles were also at Chippewa on the Niagara River 31 Dec (SS, DD), at Marathon 21 Dec 21 (KW), and Erieau 8–11 Jan (JB, SC).

A female light-morph **Northern Fulmar** was found lying in the snow 5 Jan by a non-birder in Aurora and taken to a rehab center. It was found to have a broken clavicle and was therefore euthanized. This will provide a first record for the Toronto Region, if accepted. An adult Great Cormorant in Port Credit harbour 19 Feb (DEP) was joined next day by an immature. Both birds favored a prominent perch on the mast of a sunken ship, and remained to 29 Feb. Remarkable so far n. was the Great Blue Heron seen at Atikokan 7 Dec (DHE). The number of Black-crowned Night-Herons wintering in Toronto continues to increase with a maximum of 13 on 8 Jan (RS).

The Lake Ontario Mid-winter Waterfowl Inventory (Table 1) was conducted 9 Jan. The 457,813 waterfowl counted were a record by 180,571 in the 10 years that a census has been taken of the Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario. The 64,763 waterfowl in the Toronto area was a record by 8186 in the 54-year history at that location. There were record numbers in the overall count for Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Redhead, scaup, and Long-tailed Duck. Numbers were high for White-winged Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, and Bufflehead. The majority of Long-tailed Ducks and Com. Mergansers were at the e. end of the lake, but Hamilton at the w. end had the highest numbers of scaup and Com. Goldeneyes. Tundra Swans are increasingly tending to overwinter in s. Ontario. An example would be the 6200 on the Blenheim CBC Also counted there were 4000 Am. Coots. A Richardson's (Canada) Goose at Hillman Marsh 5 Feb (AW) provided a first winter record for Pelee. Fifteen other Richardson's were seen on the Thames R. at London 23 Jan (P&DB). A Greater White-fronted Goose was on Wolfe I. 19 Dec–5 Jan (RKF et al.). The Ross's Goose at Toronto's Humber Bay Park remained until 3 Dec (GC). A flock of 134 N. Shovelers at Hamilton Harbour 26 Dec (AW) were exceptional for the date. A flock of 800 early migrant Canvasbacks was seen at Hamilton 27 Feb (RZD, BNC). A female Com. Eider was off Stoney Creek 24 Dec (RC, JO, m.ob.). King Eiders were also present there, but the female at Cobourg 1–10 Dec (m.ob.) was exceptional for that area. Harlequin Ducks were again thinly scattered around the s. Great Lakes, totaling more than a dozen. The 102 Surf Scoters at Rondeau 6 Jan (SC,JTB) were exceptional for that locality. Single Barrow's Goldeneyes turned up at P.E.Pt. (RW,JE), Ivy Lea Bridge, Ft. Erie, Barcovan, and Toronto, in addition to the two at Ottawa. A flock of 2100 Com. Mergansers (RT) remained until freeze-up 18 Dec at L. Nipissing.

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Grimsby Raptor Watch got off to an exceptionally early start with 250 raptors, including 224 Red-tailed Hawks counted 29 Feb. At Atikokan, 19 Bald Eagles remained to 19 Dec (DHE), and in Fort Frances another 23 were counted the day before (DHE). The only Gyrfalcon in the s. was one at Richmond Hill 17 Dec (NM). Others were present farther n., with one at Sault Ste. Marie and two at Thunder Bay.

According to Ontario government biologist Ron Pittaway, the highest-ever count of 118 Ruffed Grouse on the Algonquin CBC was likely the result of the mild dry spring in 1999, which led to a high chick-survival rate. The highest numbers in winter are found in areas with large groves of aspen where they feed upon the buds in late afternoon. If there is a cyclical pattern in Ruffed Grouse populations, it has been too weak to be discerned. A few N. Bobwhite are being reported from the Curt Cousin C.A. in s. London, but they are likely escapees. A Virginia Rail at Aldershot (m.ob.) remained from 28 Jan+. A Sora at Port Hope (RF et al.) seen 5–19 Jan (MW) was equally unusual.

Killdeer lingered to 18 Dec at Adolphustown (JHE, RDW) and returned early; e.g., 24 Feb at Kingston. One remained 1 Jan–22 Feb in Wheatley Harbour, to furnish the second overwintering record for Pelee. A Sanderling on the Cedar Creek CBC was a good find. Only two Purple Sandpipers were above Niagara Falls (JI) 2 Dec, and these both soon disappeared. Another was at Cobourg Harbour 30 Dec–2 Jan (CEG, m.ob). A pair at Erieau (JTB et al.) remained to 9 Jan. American Woodcocks were among the first spring migrants; one at P.E.Pt. was record-early. A Com. Snipe at Atikokan 26 Dec (DHE) was the first there in winter in almost 30 years.

A Pomarine Jaeger and three Parasitics were at Van Wagner's Beach 14 Dec (JO) in a powerful e. wind. Two others were blown off L. Ontario to nearby Burlington lakeshore (RC) the same day. There were two Parasitics at Kettle Pt. 10 Dec (A&MR) and another at Sarnia 26 Dec. A second-basic Laughing Gull was at Adam Beck, Niagara, 5 Jan (DD). An adult Black-headed Gull at Queenston 20 Feb (CE) was joined by another a few weeks later. A Bonaparte's Gull at Wolfe I. 25 Jan (RS,EC) was the latest ever for Kingston. At Colpoy Bay there were still 20 on 25 Dec (JJ). Before 1995 this species was rarely seen in winter in the Bruce peninsula. An albino first-year Ring-billed Gull was at Sunnyside in Toronto 25 Feb (RY). California Gulls continued their late fall Niagara appearances in recent years, with an adult at Adam Beck (MK). One was as late as 6 Jan and there was another the same day above the falls (MK). A third-winter bird was at Adam Beck 1 Jan (WD, SS). One was at Port Weller on the CBC 19 Dec (RZD et al.). Gull peak numbers at Niagara are now 2–3 weeks later than a decade ago. Iceland Gulls reached a high of 12 on 8 Jan (DD) at Adam Beck and Lesser Black-backeds totaled five the same day. At the foot of Polson St. on the Toronto waterfront, the first-basic **Heermann's Gull** remained 14 Nov (BM) to 29 Feb, with two side trips to Hamilton (in March). Local birders fed it fish by hand to help it through the harsh winter. Despite its smaller size, this feisty gull defended its food items vigorously and successfully against all comers. At the same Polson St. location, counts ran as high as 34 Glaucous Gulls 6 Feb (BY), 17 Iceland Gulls 23 Feb (JI et al.), one Thayer's Gull and one Lesser Black-backed Gull. An imm. **Ivory Gull** was seen by a lucky few in the Toronto area. It was first spotted at Toronto's Leslie Spit at 1330 EST on 23 Jan (JE *fide* JI), then Humber Bay Park (TH *fide* JI) at 1500, and

Table 1. Mid-winter waterfowl count results, Lake Ontario Ontario 9 Jan 2000. A total of 40 species was recorded. There were also 37 Bald Eagles tallied.

SPECIES	TOTAL
Red-throated Loon	2
Common Loon	7
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Horned Grebe	31
Red-necked Grebe	3
Eared Grebe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	29
Greater White-fronted Goose	1
Snow Goose	6
Canada Goose	34,907
Tundra Swan	156
Trumpeter Swan	40
Mute Swan	327
Wood Duck	6
Gadwall	1760
American Wigeon	102
American Black Duck	3355
Mallard	25,685
Am. Black Duck x Mallard	19
Northern Shoveler	36
Northern Pintail	75
Green-winged Teal	34
Canvasback	74
Redhead	5944
Ring-necked Duck	46
Greater Scaup	37,417
Lesser Scaup	4730
scaup sp.	22,550
King Eider	1
Harlequin Duck	3
Surf Scoter	171
White-winged Scoter	11,150
Black Scoter	5
Long-tailed Duck	228,725
Bufflehead	6569
Common Goldeneye	27,769
Barrow's Goldeneye	1
Hooded Merganser	102
Common Merganser	11,049
Red-breasted Merganser	1845
merganser sp.	2211
Ruddy Duck	62
duck sp.	30,603
American Coot	203
TOTAL WATERFOWL	457,813

finally at Bronte Harbour at 1600 (GC) where it went to roost. Next morning the bird was gone.

The Niagara River has had more than its share of unusual hybrid gulls and Herring Gull subspecies of distant origin. To date, Yellow-legged Gull has escaped detection in Ontario and is considered a likely candidate to be added to our provincial list. A gull was observed 8 Jan that was slightly larger than the average Herring, with considerable head streaking, a slightly darker mantle, and a bright yellow bill with a rectangular red gonys spot. The bill was deeper and slightly shorter than those of the nearby Herring Gulls. The irides were chrome yellow, the orbital ring was red, and the black on the primaries was extensive. There was one small mirror on p10 and three primary tips extended beyond the tail. From the resulting Internet discussion, it was learned that only Atlantic populations of Yellow-legged Gull would show head streaking at this date and that Baltic races of the Herring Gull or hybrid Lesser Black-backed × Herring were both possibilities given the description. The issue remains unresolved.

The same easterly gale 14 Dec that produced the jaegers was responsible for an all-too-brief sighting of an **Ancient Murrelet** 80 meters offshore by RC at Burlington, providing the fifth record for Ontario and the third in the past decade.

OWLS THROUGH FINCHES

Owls were scarce again this winter as meadow vole populations remained exceptionally low. Great Gray Owl sightings were few in the south. One bird returned to Mara Township of *Simcoe*, where it eluded most birders. Two were in the Bancroft area 28 Jan–12 Feb (m.ob.). Boreal Owls were seen no farther s. than Algonquin Park 26 Feb (RT) and sw. of Tobermory in early Jan.

Three-toed Woodpeckers were present in their usual small numbers. A female was at Spruce Bog Trail in Algonquin Park 20 Feb (PM) and it, or another, was there 26 Feb (PS, MA). Three were observed at various times in a grove of recently dead tamaracks n. of Apsley (BF). An oddity was the "pure white" Blue Jay at Downie (TF). Common Ravens are venturing farther s. each year. This year's reports include two n. of Bowmanville 29 Jan (EA, m.ob.), two near Bewdley 16 Feb (FH), and another at Palgrave C.A. (PG) 15 Jan which was believed to have spent the winter there again. Boreal Chickadees occasionally wander south, so three at a feeder near Coldwater (CC) were not too surprising. Another was at Cold Springs, *Northumberland* (AG) to 9 Dec. A Marsh Wren spent the winter near the n. platform at Cranberry Marsh (m.ob.). The Long Point CBC turned up the only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher of the winter.

The male Mt. Bluebird first reported last fall continued to be seen in company with 2–3 E. Bluebirds near Fisher's Glen throughout the winter. Its range extended several km along Front St., so it was often difficult to find. A female was at Wiarton 19 Dec (JJ, EM) and another with three Eastern Bluebirds was a few km from P.E.Pt. 22–9 Feb (JHE, BR etal.). Townsend's Solitaire sightings this winter each lasted only a few moments. One was seen briefly at the entrance to Kortright, York, 3 Dec (DS), seen very briefly, and another at Tilden Woods at Pelee (DM) in early Dec. Another was on the Long Pt. CBC 18 Dec (RR, EC) on concession 3, but like the others, it could not be refound. This bird was a first for the Long Point region. One s. of Thunder Bay was better behaved, remaining from 26 Dec–5 Jan (*fide* NE). Truly remarkable was the Wood Thrush at 12 Cluny Dr. in Toronto on 26 Dec (RT). The bird appeared to be injured and may have fallen prey to a fox. Varied Thrush is another western rarity that managed to avoid most birders' lists. A male wintered in Sault Ste. Marie, another in Blind R., and yet another spent the winter at Thunder Bay, but these sites are far from the populous south.

Bohemian Waxwings were widespread and present in big numbers. They were seen as far s. as Rondeau P.P. 30 Jan (BM). Flocks as large as 700 were at Lakefield 9 Jan (FH, J&JT). At Kingston, a peak of 2000 was recorded 13 Feb. Except for Yellow-rumpeds, warbler reports were scarce. Noteworthy was the Pine Warbler 1 Dec (HK) at the Donwoods Institute in Toronto. A Black-and-white Warbler was found on the London CBC The Baltimore Oriole on the Ottawa CBC was the only representative of that species in Ontario this winter. A female W. Tanager was discovered on the South Peel CBC (GE) at the Shell Woods (soon to be a subdivision), and was subsequently seen by hundreds through to 12 Jan. Eastern Towhees included one at a feeder at Arkona (PC), another in North Bay late Dec and early Jan, and one near Wesleyville 17 Nov–3 Feb. Two others farther n. were at Sault Ste. Marie 18–20 Dec (MR) and Marathon 19–24 Dec (CV, PC). Spotted Towhees have been reported almost annually since they were taxonomically split from Easterns five years ago; one wonders how many passed unnoticed in the years before 1995. This year's was a male at Lynde Shores C.A. in Whitby 1 Dec–10 Feb (BH), a first for the Durham region. Western Meadowlarks are becoming scarce at any season in s. Ontario, so one n. of Bowmanville 15–23 Feb (MB, m.ob.) was exceptional.

Savannah Sparrows included singles at Seacliff 30 Jan (AW), Brantford airport 16 Jan (WL), the U. of Guelph arboretum 28 Jan–6 Feb (CEa), Dundas 18–29 Feb (BW, m.ob.), Wolfe I. 19 Dec (DW, JR), Turkey Point 21 Jan (JMH, DG), and Bird Studies Canada in Port Rowan. The only Lincoln's Sparrow was

at Ernest T. Seton Park in Toronto 14–15 Jan (JF, *fide* GC), to the delight of Toronto's avid winter listers. An imm. Harris's Sparrow was at a feeder near Elizabethville 31 Jan (AP). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Marathon in late Jan (CV, PC). A total of four reports of Brewer's Blackbirds was above average. One was at Branchton 19 Dec (WR), one was in company with Rusties was at Port Colborne 22 Jan (GL), and another was at Kleinburg 23 Jan (JL). Purple Finches, like most of the winter finches, were scarce. At Kingston they were regular until 19 Dec, then there were none until they began to return 23 Feb at P.E.Pt. (RSp). A special treat for s. Ontario birders was provided by the mixed flocks of the crossbills in the European larches near Cranberry Marsh: up to 10 Reds and 12 White-wingeds were approachable and there was a high proportion of males.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 149.

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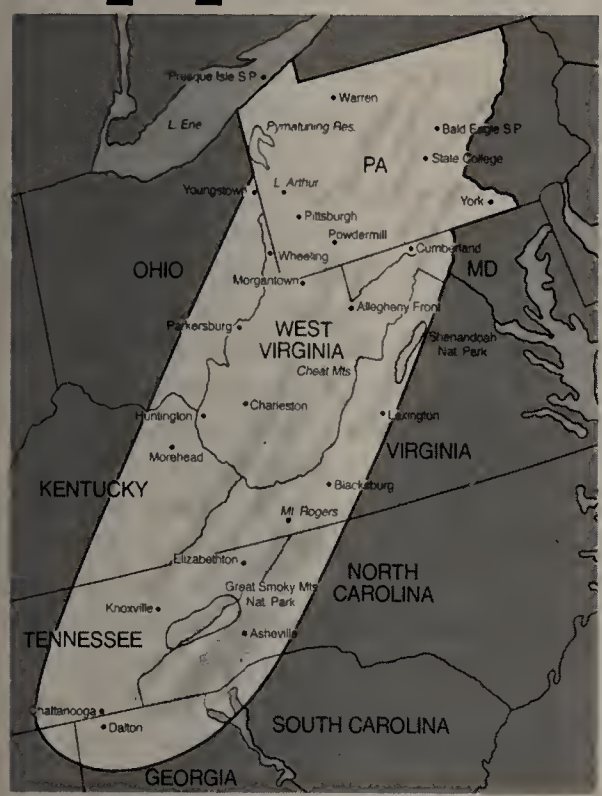

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By Appalachian standards it was a mild winter, with a warmer-than-usual December, a few weeks of cold, old-fashioned winter in late January, and spring-like conditions by the last week of February. At Erie, Presque Isle Bay remained open until mid-January and was free of ice again by 25 February, allowing a wide variety of waterfowl to linger there. Open water at many inland rivers, lakes, and reservoirs also provided habitat for a variety of wintering waterbirds. Many raptors, including Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, and American Kestrel, likely benefited from low snow accumulations in the north that made small-mammal prey more accessible. No doubt because of these same mild weather conditions, many backyard feeder-watchers viewed the season as "dull" or, at least, "less than spectacular."

A scattering of hummingbirds attempted to winter in the southern part of the Region. As Kevin Calhoon noted, it was undoubtedly the first time ever that three different hummingbird species wintered at a single feeding station in Tennessee—or, this editor would add, anywhere else in the Appalachians! Northern Shrikes wintered in record-high numbers in western Pennsylvania, where a survey by Paul Hess accounted for a minimum of 68 birds scattered over 26 counties. Only rather moderate numbers of northern finches invaded the area, but, as noted below, the flight did take several species deep into the southern mountains. During the last week of February, with warm spring-like conditions, there were strong northward flights of ducks, Turkey Vultures, American Woodcocks, Eastern Phoebes, and Fox Sparrows throughout the Region.

Abbreviations: M.L.W.A. (*Mosquito Lake Wildlife Area, Trumbull, OH*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland, PA*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Fourteen Red-throated Loons were listed during a systematic waterbird count at Sunset Pt., P.I.S.P., through 1 Jan (JM); the only report s. of L. Erie came from Meander Cr. Res., *Mahoning*, OH, 18 Dec (*fide* CBa). Common Loons, recorded mostly as singles, were found nearly throughout the Region where there was suitable open water, with a high count of 28 at Douglas L., TN, 12 Dec (RKn, DE). The 46 Pied-billed Grebes listed on the *Garrett*, MD, CBC, 20 Dec, represented a new high count for that area (FP). Six hundred Horned Grebes were counted just offshore along a 5-mi stretch of beach at P.I.S.P. 18 Dec (JM); a high count of 76 was at Douglas L., TN, 12 Dec (RKn, DE), and seven were at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC, 20 Dec (WF). The season's only Red-necked Grebe was found off P.I.S.P. 7 Dec (JM). Now found regularly in the Region, up to six Eared Grebes wintered on S. Holston L., TN (RKn, WC), and as many as four were at P.I.S.P. 11–19 Dec (JD, LR, JM). A very late American White Pelican was an unusual find at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 18 Dec (JCh, BJ, HW); another was observed in Mahoning, OH, 19–21 Dec (*fide* DJH). Ten Double-crested Cormorants were flying down the Allegheny R. at Warren, PA, as late as 6 Jan (DW), and about 15 stayed to winter at Kingsport, TN (RKn).

An Am. Bittern was a rare winter find near Brevard, NC, 22 Dec (NS); even more surprising was one near Oakland, MD, 13 Jan (*fide* FP). Six Great Egrets, first seen 12 Dec at Hiwassee W.R., TN (LW, BJ, JCh), remained through the season. A Green Heron flushed from the edge of Keystone L. during the Bushy Run CBC, *Westmoreland*, PA, 26 Dec (*fide* DBy) was certainly late for that locality, but was the bird at Herrington Manor S.P., MD, 26 Feb (FP) wintering or an exceptionally early spring migrant? The only reports of wintering Black-crowned Night-Herons were of ≤10 at Kingsport, TN (RKn). In recent years there has been a trend for Turkey Vultures to attempt wintering farther n. in the Region; one at Erie 6 Jan (BS) represented the first winter record for that area, one was in *Indiana*, PA, 27 Dec (RMH), and two were in *Trumbull*, OH, 9 Jan (DJH).

WATERFOWL

Reports of a Ross's Goose from three *Westmoreland/Indiana*, PA, sites 26 Dec–28 Feb may all have been of the same individual (*fide* PH), but another was at Blythe Ferry W.M.A., *Meigs*, TN, 6 Feb (*fide* KC). At Pymatuning L., PA, Canada Geese peaked at over 11,200 birds 19 Dec (RH); 3000 were at M.L.W.A., OH, 30 Jan (DJH). An unmarked Trumpeter Swan, first seen at L. Arthur, PA, in July, remained until mid-January freeze-up (PH); five wing-tagged adults were at P.I.S.P. 31 Dec–16 Jan (JM, JSt). Late southward flights of Tundra Swans included 300 on 18 Dec over *Allegheny/Butler*, PA, (PH) and 100 at Tidioute, PA, 31 Dec (JK); 150 wintered on Erie Bay (JM), and an early northbound flock of 30 was over Ligonier, PA, 23 Feb (BSh).

Over 700 Am. Black Ducks were at M.L.W.A., 19 Dec (CBa), while high counts of Mallards included nearly 3200 at Pymatuning L. 1 Jan (RFL), and 2000 at Quemahoning L., *Somerset*, PA, 25 Dec (TM). Two Blue-winged Teal at P.I.S.P. 18 Dec were especially late so far north (AnT), and late N. Shovelers included five at Silver L., Dayton, VA, 26 Dec (JBa) and 19 at Pymatuning L. 11 Dec (RFL). A female **King Eider** 18 Dec (†JM) was one of the highlights of the P.I.S.P. waterbird count. In Tennessee an imm. male **Harlequin Duck** on the S. Holston R. 1 Jan–early Feb (AH, JBr, m.ob.) represented just the 3rd state record. In w. Pennsylvania, away from L. Erie (where they are regular), single Surf Scoters were on the Ohio R. at Montgomery Dam, *Beaver*, 18 Dec (KB, BH), Kahle L., *Venango*, 24 Dec (JSt), and on the Alleheny R. near Pittsburgh 31 Jan (PH, SK); two were at L. Julian, NC, 20 Dec (WF, DBl) and two at Hiwassee W.R., TN, 12 Dec (RHo, DM). Two Black Scoters were at P.I.S.P. 8 Dec, with one there on the 28th (JM); two at Hiwassee 12 Dec were a rare find (RHo, DM). Exceptional Ruddy Duck counts included 1707 at L. Arthur, PA, 18 Dec (GW) and 944 in *Garrett*, MD, 18 Dec (FP).

The thousands of Common Redpolls that pushed southward during fall 1999 and continued into winter 1999/2000 were accompanied by a few Hoary Redpolls, such as this female at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, 10 Feb 2000. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

A late Osprey was at Cherokee L., TN, 12 Dec (RKn, DE), but one along the Allegheny R., at Warren, PA, 18 Feb (TG) was likely an exceptionally early spring migrant. Wintering N. Goshawks apparently were mostly confined to nw. Pennsylvania, but one was seen as far s. as Green Ridge State Forest, MD, 20 Feb (JBC). Rough-legged Hawks invaded the Region in the best numbers in several years: over 80 were reported, including 11 in nw. *Warren*, PA, 19 Dec (DW, TG), ten at Belleville, *Mifflin*, PA, 16 Jan (GG), and six in *Allegany*, MD, in mid-winter (GB, Rki). In e. Tennessee, reports came from *Washington* 5 Feb, *Johnson* 8–26 Feb (*fide* RKn), and *Bledsoe* 12 Dec and 10 Jan (*fide* KC). Wintering Golden Eagles included one at Acme, *Westmoreland*, PA, 6 Feb (JG), and another in Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA, 26 Dec (DDv). At least ten Merlins were reported from w. PA, with scattered birds seen elsewhere in the Region. The raptor of the season was a white-morph **Gyrfalcon** at the Stone Mt. hawkwatch, *Huntingdon*, PA, 7 Dec (†DBr). Single Peregrine Falcons were at P.I.S.P. 3 Jan (LM), Parkersburg, WV, in mid-Jan (*fide* JE), and Watauga L., TN, 9 Jan (HPL). Up to five wintered in Pittsburgh (PH) and a pair had returned to their nest site at Chickamauga Dam, TN, by 10 Jan (HS).

Early in the season, large rafts of Am. Coots settled on Regional lakes, including 3500 on Conneaut L., PA, 18 Dec (RCL, RFL), 2191 on L. Arthur 19 Dec (GW), and 475 at L. Moomaw, *Bath*, VA, 1 Jan (YL). On Erie Bay many coots did not survive to the end of February, when about three dozen were found dead on the ice surrounding open patches of water (JM). A record count of 10,891 Sandhill Cranes was made at Hiwassee W.R., TN, 12 Jan (*fide* KC); one in *Mercer*, PA, 1 Jan was unexpectedly late so far north (NT). A record-late Lesser Yellowlegs was at Pymatuning L., *Ashtabula*, OH, 19 Dec (RCL, RFL); an early northbound migrant had reached Brainerd Levee, TN, 25 Feb (JHe). Among other interesting winter shorebirds were 31 Least Sandpipers and a Dunlin at Candies Cr. W.M.A., *Bradley*, TN, 10 Jan (KC). The only Purple Sandpiper was at P.I.S.P. 4–11 Dec (JHo, LC).

Single imm. dark-morph **Pomarine Jaegers** were spotted off P.I.S.P. 2 & 28 Dec and 2 Jan, with a probable fourth bird 30 Dec; a probable Parasitic Jaeger was there 30 Dec, all exciting results of McWilliams' systematic waterbird counts. An imm. Little Gull at Pymatuning L., 19 Dec represented the first *Crawford*, PA, record for the species (RCL, RFL), and one was at P.I.S.P. 8 Jan (JM). High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls included 608 at M.L.W.A 19 Dec (CBa), and 750 at Douglas L., TN, 12 Dec (RKn, DE). A Herring Gull near Brevard, NC, 27 Feb was just the 3rd for *Transylvania* (NS). The only Iceland Gull report was from P.I.S.P. 11 Feb (JM). A Lesser Black-backed Gull along the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, *Allegheny*, PA, 28 Dec was an exciting find (ph. WDS), as were two at P.I.S.P. 30 Jan (JM). Five Glaucous Gulls were listed at Erie 31 Dec to 4 Feb (JM, DS). Single Great Black-backed Gulls at Pittsburgh 1 Jan (PH) and 6 Feb (JHo) were rare finds for that area, as was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake along the Ohio R. at Montgomery Dam 14 Dec (SK). A Com. Tern was still at P.I.S.P. 10 Dec (JM), and a remarkably late Forster's Tern was at Nickajack L., *Marion*, TN, 27 Dec (JHe).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The Eur. Collared-Dove population continued to increase in *Hamilton*, TN, with a high count of 61 on 30 Jan (DG); five were at Pikeville, a new location in *Bledsoe*, TN, 5 Feb (DV). Barn Owls, seldom reported in recent years, were located in at least three sites in ne. Tennessee (RKn). The lone report of Snowy Owl came from P.I.S.P. 29–30 Dec (JM). Long-eared Owls were more widely reported than usual in w. Pennsylvania, led by a total of 23 at three separate roosts in *Juniata*, PA (AdT), 9 birds in *Somerset*, PA (SB, DDa), and 4 in *Venango* (JSt); one or two in Shady Valley, TN, 22–26 Jan, represented the 3rd local record (RKn). Short-eared Owls were in good numbers in, ne. Ohio, Pennsylvania, and w. Maryland, with more than 70 reported; ≤3 were regular at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, after 26 Dec (WF). Northerly Reports of .N. Saw-whet Owls came from 13 sites in w. Pennsylvania, with ≤7 at Moraine, S.P. (DDa). Southward, ten were found in Big S. Fork National Recreation Area, TN/KY (SJS); singles were at Bristol 26 Dec, and Roan Mt., TN, 11 Feb (*fide* RKn); and ≤3 were near Clayton, *Rabun*, GA, 8 Jan–3 Mar (JSe).

Incredibly, three species of hummingbirds wintered at a feeding station operated by Gil Brewster at East Brainerd, *Hamilton*, TN, and all were captured and banded (CSl, PM). An imm. male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** trapped there 12 Dec was seen occasionally thereafter through the end of the period; an ad. female **Rufous Hummingbird**, also captured 12 Dec, was not seen subsequently; and an imm. male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** banded 4 Dec remained through Feb (*fide* KC). Elsewhere, an imm. male Rufous Hummingbird banded 4 Dec (CS, PM) at Signal Mt., TN, stayed throughout the period; a banded female was in *Sullivan*, TN, into Feb (*fide* WC). At Brevard, NC, two *Selasphorus* hummingbirds frequented a feeder mid-Oct–3 Jan, when one disappeared; the second bird was banded as a Rufous 5 Jan (SC) and remained through Feb (*fide* NS).

SHRIKES THROUGH FINCHES

The only reports of Loggerhead Shrike were of a few scattered birds wintering in ne. Tennessee (RKn). Northern Shrikes, however, staged their greatest invasion on record. In ne. Ohio, five were seen in *Trumbull* (DJH) and one in *Ashtabula* (CBa), while in w. Pennsylvania a fantastic 68 shrikes were reported from 26 counties (*fide* PH, RCL). At least two Northerns crossed the Mason-Dixon line into Maryland, with one seen during the *Garrett* CBC (FP, CSk) and another at Dan's Mt., *Allegany*, 31 Dec–4 Jan (RKi). Near Clintonville, PA, Jerry Stanley witnessed a protracted chase and the eventual capture of a bat by a Northern Shrike on 24 Feb!

Blue-headed Vireos wintered in good numbers in the s. third of the Region, and one was listed as far north as Pipestem, WV, 16 Jan (JPh). Two early Tree Swallows had reached Staunton, VA, by 29 Feb (YL). In mid-Dec two Black-capped Chickadees were banded in *Sullivan*, TN, where they are rare, with one remaining into March (RL). Following last fall's heavy southward chickadee migration, significant northward movement could be detected at the P.N.R.

banding station by early Feb (RCL, RM). Two Sedge Wrens and a Marsh Wren were good finds on the Hiwassee W.R. CBC 1 Jan, and a Marsh Wren was at Brainerd Levee, TN, 18 Dec (KC). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was briefly observed but well-described near Slickville, *Westmoreland*, 15 Jan—a first w. Pennsylvania winter report (†MM). American Robins were unusually abundant in the north; high counts included 17,500 at a *Washington*, PA, state game lands 29 Jan (KB, BH), over 10,000 at a roost in Fairview, PA, in early Feb (JM), and 5863 at Raccoon Cr. S.P., PA, 28 Dec (*fide* PH). An unusually high Am. Pipit count was of 374 birds on the *Henderson*, NC, CBC 19 Dec (WF). Orange-crowned Warblers, four in all, were found at three sites in *Hamilton* and *Marion*, TN, between 18 Dec and 31 Jan (*fide* KC). Several Pine Warblers were seen in *Transylvania*, NC, in February (NS), and one was in *Carter*, TN, 20 Jan (FA). In e. Tennessee, ten Palm Warblers were listed between 18 Dec–1 Jan (RKn, KC), and one was near Pisgah Forest, NC, 15 Jan (NS). A mid-winter report of Com. Yellowthroat came from Carter, TN, 9 Jan (*fide* RKn).

A **Spotted Towhee** found at Joe Corsales' bird feeder at Export, *Westmoreland*, PA, during the Bushy Run CBC 19 Dec, represented just the 4th Pennsylvania record; it remained through the end of the period, allowing many birders to add this rarity to their lists (DBy, m.ob.). Eastern Towhees wintered in above-average numbers nearly throughout the Region. A Savannah Sparrow at Coneautville, PA, 22–26 Jan was a rare midwinter find so far north (*fide* JM) and 18 at Swoope, *Augusta*, VA, 13 Feb represented a new high winter count there (YL). A late Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was a rare find in *Hawkins*, TN, 18 Dec (RKn). Usually scarce in Pennsylvania, White-crowned Sparrows wintered in record numbers, with 91 on the Bushy Run CBC (DBy); a Gambel's White-crowned was at a feeder near Shelocta, *Indiana*, PA, 6–27 Dec (RMH). Snow Buntings were fairly common in the north, with ≤200 in late Jan at Neshannock Falls, *Lawrence*, PA (BD); the most southerly report was of two in *Garrett*, MD, 5 Feb (JBC). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder at Little River, NC, 14 Feb (*fide* NS). A Brewer's Blackbird appeared at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN, 14 Jan (CBl); three were at Brainerd Levee 10 Feb (KC), with another on the 19th (JHe). In Pennsylvania, Baltimore Orioles briefly appeared at feeders in Harborcreek 15 Jan (SP), and Sayre 17 Jan (RS).

After a heavy flight of Purple Finches through Pennsylvania during the fall, they were unaccountably scarce at P.N.R. by early winter (RM, RCL), but they were numerous in *Transylvania*, NC (NS) and in "substantial numbers" in Pipestem, WV (JPh). Small numbers of Red Crossbills invaded the Region, reaching as far s. as Cades Cove, TN (SJS), and *Henderson*, NC (*fide* WF). White-winged Crossbills were only slightly more numerous, with a high count of ten in Franklin, PA (JSt) and a few wandering s. to Roan Mt. and Signal Mt., TN (*fide* KC, RKn). Flocks of 100 or more Com. Redpolls were occasionally observed, especially in *Erie*, *Crawford*, and *Lawrence*, PA, and single birds reached as far s. as Shady Valley, TN, 25 Jan–23 Feb (JSh) and *Augusta*, VA, 8–19 Feb (YL). A female **Hoary Redpoll** (ph. JM) was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 10 Feb. Following a fairly heavy autumn flight, Pine Siskins were uncommon or absent over much of sw. Pennsylvania, including P.N.R., by mid-winter (PH, RCL), but were plentiful in *Transylvania*, NC (NS), *Augusta*, VA (YL), and, locally, in se. Tennessee (KC). Evening Grosbeaks were rather widespread in the Region but nowhere common—the highest count was of just over 125 at Roan Mt. 15 Jan (*fide* RKn).

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western great lakes

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For the third consecutive year the Region had mild conditions during the winter. It was particularly mild in the beginning of the season, the first two weeks of December, and the end of the season, the last two weeks of February. The only truly winter weather, with average amounts of snow and colder temperatures, occurred during the last two weeks of January through the first two weeks of February. Although most inland lakes froze during parts of the season, the Great Lakes remained virtually ice-free throughout.

The mild conditions resulted in a good number of species throughout the Region that lingered into January, while the early arrival of spring brought many migrants back early. Rarities, however, were "few and far between." Minnesota had the most notable reports, including Curve-billed and Sage Thrashers. In Michigan, a Black Vulture was an exceptional find, as was a Pomarine Jaeger. All three states had average numbers of irruptive species during the season.

Abbreviations: MBRC (*Michigan Bird Records Committee*).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

In Michigan Red-throated Loons were reported from *Berrien*, *Muskegon*, and *Ottawa*, while in Wisconsin they were seen in *Manitowoc*, *Ozaukee*, and *Madison*. An emaciated **Pacific Loon** in Minnesota was rehabilitated and released, but unfortunately later died (JC). It provided a first winter record for the state. Pied-billed Grebes returned early to Minnesota, with the first arriving 27 Feb in *Washington* (KB); there are only three Feb dates in the prior 20 years. Record-late in Wisconsin was an Eared Grebe 5–16 Dec in *Oconto* (AS et al.). Michigan had a rare winter report of Am. Bittern 11 Dec at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (KO), but even more astounding was a **Least Bittern** 18 Dec in *Washtenaw* (RW), pending MBRC review. In Minnesota an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported through 19 Dec in Bloomington, *Hennepin* (SC, TT et al.). Michigan also reported this species 1 Jan in *Wayne* (*fide* JC). Perhaps the best bird of the season in Michigan was a **Black Vulture** seen 8 Dec in *Grand Traverse* (JW); the record was accepted by the MBRC. Turkey Vultures lingered well into the winter in Michigan and returned to all three states by late Feb. Late records were particularly noteworthy in Minnesota, which had its first-ever convincing February record 26 Feb in *Goodhue* (Abo).

A Greater White-fronted Goose that overwintered at Fergus Falls (SM, DM) provided the first such record in Minnesota in 20 years. Also exceptional in that state were 802 migrant Greater White-fronteds 25-29 Feb, with reports from 12 s. counties. Wisconsin had an exceptional migration as well, with 300+ found at Arlington ponds in *Columbia* and *Dane* 25 Feb into March. Michigan had a few reports, including two at Willow SP, *Wayne*, 5 Dec (WP) and one at Sterling SP, *Monroe*, 1 Jan (AC) as well as CBC records. Snow Geese also made a good showing in Minnesota, with 3019 reported during 25–29 Feb from 12 counties, including an early n. report of 27 on 26 Feb at Sax-Zim bog, *St. Louis* (MA). A flock of 75 Ross's Geese 27 Feb in *Jackson* (PJ) was a record-early date for Minnesota as well as the largest flock ever recorded in that state. Also record-early were 25 on 27 Feb in *Nobles* (PJ); another was seen 26 Feb in *Lac Qui Parle* (RS) and one wintered 29 Dec–30 Jan+ in *Olmsted* (m.ob.). Wisconsin also eclipsed its earliest arrival for Ross's Goose, with five 26 Feb in *Columbia* and *Dane* (TW et al.); two were seen 27 Feb near Shiocton, *Outagamie* (MP et al.). A **Brant** 27 Feb in *Columbia* and *Dane* provided an unusual winter/early spring record in Wisconsin (CH et al.). Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to swell. Minnesota reported 400 at Monticello, *Sherborne*, and *Wright* (KB), and Wisconsin had 46 at Hudson. An impressive number of Tundra Swans remained late in Wisconsin, including 10,840 on 6 Dec in the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. (EN). Both dabbling and diving ducks overwintered in good numbers throughout, and spring migrants arrived early and in force. Notable reports included 92 N. Pintails in *Otter Tail* 27 Feb (DM, SM), a large number that early at such a northern Minnesota site. Wisconsin highlighted a very early Blue-winged Teal 28 Feb in *Jefferson* (KH). Also noteworthy in that state was a report of 60,000 Canvasbacks 6 Dec at the Upper Mississippi N.W.R. (EN). Minnesota birders were disappointed to find that a potential first state record Tufted Duck at the Blue L. sewage plant in *Scott* was an escaped female from an aviculture collection. Minnesota birders should be complimented for their persistence in investigating the origin of the bird. The King Eider in Minnesota since fall lingered through 8 Dec near Grand Marais, *Cook* (KB, et al.). Michigan reported up to six Harlequin Ducks overwintering at Muskegon (CF, m.ob.). One was seen 2 Dec in Ludington, *Mason* (TG), and another 13 Dec near Lakeside, *Berrien* (KM). Wisconsin had a Harlequin Duck winter at Milwaukee (MK, TW, JF), while Minnesota reported one through 6 Dec at Mille Lacs L., *Aitkin* (KB, AH, PS) and three in Grand Marais through 18 Dec (*fide* DB, m.ob.). The male **Barrow's Goldeneye** present for about six winters returned to Virmond Park in Wisconsin, this year accompanied by a female, into mid-Dec.

Rare in the East, this Townsend's Solitaire was photographed 31 Jan 2000 at Sand Dunes State Forest, Sherburne, MN. It was present 29 Jan–12 Feb. Photograph by Peder Svingen.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS

An extremely late Osprey was reported in Wisconsin 18 Dec at *Door* (CL, RL). Minnesota had unprecedented numbers of wintering N. Harriers, with 125 reports from 40 counties, far higher than the 20-year average of 7 individuals. A Broad-winged Hawk was record-early in Wisconsin 26 Feb in *Dane* (DT, MP). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from a record 56 counties in Minnesota, while Michigan also had an above-average number, including ≤40 on 15–16 Jan in *Chippewa* (KT), a large number that far n. in winter. Michigan had 1–2 Golden Eagles at the typical locations in *Allegan*, while Wisconsin had reports from five counties and Minnesota had a record 26 individuals from 15 counties. Merlins were reported in increased numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. In Michigan many of these reports were on CBCs and some may be incorrect, however, some were well-documented and suggest an increase in winter individuals. As is typical, the only Prairie Falcon reports came from Minnesota where individuals were seen 31 Dec in Otter Tail and 13 Feb in *Wilkin* (DM, SM), while another overwintered in Minneapolis for the third consecutive year. Peregrine Falcons were reported overwintering at various locations in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Gray Partridge numbers were up in Wisconsin, particularly in *Brown*. Also more numerous were Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Sault Ste. Marie area of Michigan, where groups of up to 20 were observed. Northern Minnesota had its first winter record of Sora when one was found 18 Dec in Otter Tail (DM, SM). A Virginia Rail in Wisconsin was seen through 18 Dec in Madison (PA). Sandhill Cranes remained late in all three states and early arrivals appeared throughout the Region in Feb. Minnesota had a record-early arrival, with individuals 29 Feb at Carlos Avery W.M.A., *Anoka* (JD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

Killdeer remained late in the Region and probably overwintered in all three states, while early migrants began returning by the end of Feb. Amazingly, both Michigan and Wisconsin had reports of **Lesser Yellowlegs**. In Michigan, two were seen 2 Dec in Washtenaw (MJ, DC, et al.), while another two were seen 18 Dec at the Erie Power Plant, *Monroe*; one was there 1 Jan (AC). In Wisconsin, an early migrant appeared 29 Feb and remained into March at Goose Pond, *Columbia* (WH). Sanderlings lingered into January in Michigan, the latest being one at Muskegon 9 Jan (DM, KOt, PD, CF). Unprecedented for Michigan were overwintering Purple Sandpipers at Muskegon, where a maximum total of 14 birds was seen 8 Jan (KM, JG, et al.). Also in that state were three Purple Sandpipers 7 Dec at Holland SP, *Ottawa* (FS), and one 6 Dec (DSt) and two 8 Dec (TWe, GB) at Point Mouillee, *Monroe*. Wisconsin had a Purple Sandpiper 5–6 Dec at Milwaukee (MK) and one through 17 Dec at Sheboygan (DBr, MB). Dunlins were record-late in Michigan, the latest being two at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe*, 24 Jan (WP). Common Snipe and Am. Woodcock returned to both Minnesota and Michigan by late February.

Exceptional for Michigan was a sub-adult **Pomarine Jaeger** 3 Jan at Port Huron, *St. Clair* (AB, ST); the record is pending review by the MBRC. Little Gulls lingered late in Michigan this season, with one to 18 Dec at Holland (LB), two to 9 Jan in Muskegon (CF), and one to 24 Dec at New Buffalo, *Berrien* (DVi). Bonaparte's Gulls also remained well into Jan in Michigan in above-average numbers. Unusual for Minnesota were overwintering Ring-billed Gulls in the ne. portion of the state adjacent to L. Superior. All three states reported average numbers of Thayer's and Iceland Gulls. Michigan had a maximum of nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls in *Monroe* (AB), with smaller numbers from seven other counties. Wisconsin had one in Madison through mid-Dec and another at Milwaukee 8 Jan (m.ob.). Minnesota had up to two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Black Dog Lake, *Dakota*, 19 Dec (AH). Minnesota reported a single first-winter Great Black-backed Gull 13 Dec at Knife River, *Lake* (PS). In Wisconsin, a first-winter Nelson's Gull (Herring × Glaucous) was reported 7 Dec (KB) at the Superior landfill, while a second-winter was seen the same day in Minnesota at Duluth (KE, KB); the latter bird was seen again at the Superior Landfill and finally at Duluth 18 Dec (KB, PC, DB). **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were seen in Michigan 27 Dec at New Buffalo, *Berrien* (AB, PC); an adult was seen at close range 9 Jan at Muskegon (DMc, KOt, PDe).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves overwintered in Minnesota in New Ulm, *Brown* (*fide* AH) and at Willmar, *Kandiyohi* (RF), while two remained to 18 Dec at Fairmont, *Martin* (BB, EB). Snowy Owls were scarce throughout the Region. Only Minnesota reported N. Hawk Owl this season, where an average number of 10 was seen in the traditional locations in *Aitkin*, *St. Louis*, and *Lake*. Also average were the 33 Great Gray Owl reports from eight Minnesota counties. Wisconsin had a single Great Gray reported from 2–3 Jan at Fort McCoy, *Monroe* (DK). Minnesota reported near-record numbers of Long-eared Owls: 40 individuals from eight counties. Michigan also had better numbers of this species with reports from

six counties. Minnesota had a record high for Short-eared Owls with 28 reports from 10 counties. In Michigan a Short-eared Owl nest was discovered with two warm eggs 15 Feb at Pt. Mouillee (KF). Not only was the early egg date unusual (perhaps a record), but Short-eareds are also extremely rare nesters in the state. Minnesota reported Boreal Owls calling in *Lake* as early as late Jan (FN). A nocturnal owl census 28 Feb along Stoney R. Forest Rd., *Lake*, Minnesota, recorded two Boreals, two Great Grays, two Long-eareds, and 13 N. Saw-whet Owls (AH, PS). Michigan had an above-average number of saw-whet reports in the south.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker 21 Feb in *Menominee* (JS) was n. of normal in Michigan. *Six* Three-toed Woodpeckers in their traditional n. locations in Minnesota were considered above-average, but even rarer was a female in Michigan 18–19 Feb in *Baraga* (JY, LM), where the species is casual at best. Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen in record numbers in Minnesota, with 30 found in 10 counties; both Michigan and Wisconsin reported average numbers. Michigan and Minnesota had above-average numbers of N. Shrikes. Wisconsin reported above-average numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the s. part of the state. Far s. of normal in Michigan was a report of a Boreal Chickadee 7 Jan in *Kent* (BM). Rare in Minnesota were reports of four Carolina Wrens: one wintered at Battle L., *Otter Tail* (EE, m.ob.), one in Fredenburg Township, *St. Louis* (*fide* KE) late Nov–15 Jan, and one each at St. Louis Park (AH) and Bloomington 18 Dec (both *Hennepin*). Wisconsin reported the species to be scarcer than normal this season. Exceptional in Minnesota were two Marsh Wrens 3 Dec at Frontenac, *Goodhue* (KB), and another 16 Jan at the Minnesota River Valley N.W.R., *Hennipin* (TT); there were only six previous winter records for the state. Minnesota reported the only Townsend's Solitaires, individuals 2 Dec at Sax-Zim bog, *St. Louis* (AH), 29 Jan–12 Feb at Sand Dunes SF, *Sherburne* (ABi, m.ob.), and two on the Grand Marais CBC 18 Dec (*fide* JK). Wisconsin had five reports of Varied Thrush and Minnesota had eight, including a first county record for *Blue Earth* 24 Jan in Mankato (MF).

MIMIDS THROUGH FINCHES

Unexpected in Wisconsin was a Gray Catbird feeding with robins and waxwings 21 Jan in *Kewaunee* (MP). In Michigan, a Brown Thrasher 20 Dec–13 Jan in *Grand Traverse* (LG) and another 9 Jan in *Marquette* (LT) were both n. of normal. A **Curve-billed Thrasher** which wintered at a feeder in Breckenridge, *Wilkin*, (CB, m.ob.) provided Minnesota its 3rd state record, while a **Sage Thrasher** 20 Feb–4 Mar in Edina, *Hennepin* (RJ, et al.) was the state's 8th. Late in Michigan was an Am. Pipit 27 Dec in *Ottawa* (CP); Wisconsin had only its 2nd Jan record of this species with one 7 Jan in Milwaukee (JI). Both Wisconsin and Michigan reported good numbers of Bohemian Waxwings in the n. portions of the state, with a few making it to the s. portion of Michigan. Unexpected was a **Yellow Warbler** at Port Washington 4 Dec (BF), a record-late date for Wisconsin by one month. For the third straight year Wisconsin hosted a Yellow-throated Warbler, this year at a feeder in Onalaska to 30 Dec (LMa). A third winter record for Minnesota was the Cape May Warbler 18 Dec–18 Jan in Duluth, *St. Louis* (KE, m.ob.), while a first for that state was a **Wilson's Warbler** 3–4 Dec in St. Paul, *Ramsey* (SWa, TT). Also an excellent find was a Pine Warbler 23 Jan in *Ottawa* (CPo), Michigan.

In Wisconsin a Chipping Sparrow appeared at a feeder in *Waushara* 15 Jan (DT, et al.). A Savannah Sparrow 18 Dec on the Cottonwood CBC (PE) provided only Minnesota's 3rd winter record. Rare in Michigan were Fox Sparrows that overwintered at several locations. Wisconsin's Fox Sparrows included one that overwintered in *Dane* (KB) and three 30 Dec–1 Jan in *Ozaukee* (JF). Michigan also had an above-average number of reports of Lincoln's Sparrow, including one photographed 1 Jan in downtown Detroit (KO, JFo). Blackbirds began arriving throughout the Region in good numbers by the end of the period. A male Baltimore Oriole in Wisconsin found 19 Dec during the Chippewa Falls CBC was captured and rehabilitated two days later. One was in *Roscommon*, Michigan, 10 Dec–4 Jan (JBo). Pine Grosbeak numbers were reported as good in the n. portions of the region, but few came south. Both crossbills were found in average to below-average numbers in the n. portion of the region, although a few White-winged Crossbills made it into s. Michigan. Common Redpolls were reported in modest numbers in Minnesota and Michigan and very good numbers in Wisconsin. All three states had good numbers of Hoary Redpoll reports, including 37 from 17 counties in Minnesota, and reports from seven counties in Michigan, with a maximum of five in *Marquette* 5 Feb (LT). Pine Siskins were reported in fair to modest numbers, while Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in Michigan and Minnesota but present in good numbers in n. Wisconsin.

Errata: In *North American Birds* 53:389, the observer for the Piping Plover in *Lake* 3 Jun should read PS not JM.

Observers: Brian Allen, Mark Alt , Philip Ashman, **Karl Bardon** (Minnesota), Glenn Belyea, Dave Benson, Andy Bicek (ABi), Jack Bouck (JBo), Al Bolduc (ABo), Doug Brasser (DBr), Margaret Brasser, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Celine Brudvik, Brad Bulduan, Kay Burcar, Larry Burke, Adam Byrne, Scott Carlson, Don Chalfont, Allen Chartier, Phil Chu, Julie Craves, Jeff Dains, Pat Deventer, Kim Eckert, Paul Egeland, Bob Fisher, Keith Fisher, Jim Fowler (JFo), Jim Frabank, Chip Francke, Jim Frank, Randy Frederickson, Merrill J. Frydendall, Leonard Graf, Jim Granlund, Dennis Gustafson, Karen Etter-Hale, Jan Hansen, Anthony Hertzel, Willie Hutcheson, John Idzikowski, Paul Jantscher, Maggie Jewett, Jeff Kern, Dennis Kuecherer, Mark Korducki, Charlotte Luke, Roy Luke, Lee Marking (LMa), **Doug McWhirter** (DMc; Michigan), Diane Millard, Steve Millard, Kip Miller, Bob Moblo, Lynn Murphy, Eric Nelson, Frank Nicoletti, Karl Overman, Karl Ott (KOt), Walt Pawlowski, Cal Pomarius, Caroline Pomarius (CPo), Chuck Heikkinen, Mark Peterson, Jim Schei, Fred Schermer, John Schladweiler, Dave Smitley, Dave Stimac (DSt), Peder Svingen, Louis Taccolini, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Tom Tustison, Dave Vinnedge (DVi), Tex Wells (TWe), Keith Westphal, Joan Wolfe, Tom Wood, Roger Wykes, Joe Youngman.

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 149.

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Black-capped Chickadees sometimes disperse southward in winter. Despite the warm weather typifying winter 1999–2000, two ended up some 240 km south of their normal range in Madison, Kentucky, furnishing a first record for that state. This individual was photographed on 3 Mar 2000. Note the extensive pale edgings to the wing coverts and the ragged lower edge to the black bib. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

middlewestern prairie

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There was Regional consensus that the winter of 1999–2000 duplicated the mild conditions that occurred across the Midwest during the past two winters. This year "normal" winter prevailed for only about three weeks, beginning in late January. This brief, bitter cold was followed by unprecedented warmth; indeed, in Chicago, February was reportedly the warmest on record. Precipitation, though moderate in some areas, was deemed insufficient to erase the acute moisture deficit generated last summer and fall. Most precipitation fell as rain or snow that quickly melted.

Following the pattern established in recent winters, the warm December clime enticed numerous birds to linger in the Region. The roster of loiterers was dominated by waterfowl, shorebirds, sparrows, and blackbirds, many of which ultimately wintered. Also as expected, April-like mid-February temperatures brought an influx of early migrants, including the likes of Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Forster's Terns. With the exception of a few Snowy Owls, a White-winged Crossbill movement, and a significant Northern Shrike incursion, few birds moved into the Region from farther north.

The Middlewestern Prairie Region's recent pattern of clement winters has significantly improved the birding. Birders are rapidly becoming acclimated to hummingbirds in December, waterbirds in January, and spring migration in February. Will the bubble burst?

Abbreviations: Carlyle L. (*Carlyle Lake in Clinton, Fayette, and Bond, IL*), H.B.S.P (*Headlands Beach S.P., OH*); Jax.P. (*Jackson Park on the Chicago lakefront*); L. Calumet (*Lake Calumet, Chicago*); R.E.D.A (*Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO*).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons were less widespread than last winter, with eight birds restricted to Illinois and Indiana. Common Loons lived up to their name; there were reports from all six states, with peak counts of 79 at H.B.S.P 11 Dec (RHn) and 66 at L. Monroe, IN, 12 Dec (DWh, LSt). Iowa's second **Yellow-billed Loon**, an imm. at Little Wall L., was first seen 1 Dec and remained until 12 Dec (JD, †TKt, †CE, AR, †MP, m.ob., ph.). Presumably the same bird reappeared at Hallett's Quarry, a few miles s., where it stayed until at least 21 Dec (†SD, †JD). Grebes took advantage of the open water and lingered in good numbers; peak counts of both Pied-billeds and Horneds exceeded 100 birds. Red-necked Grebe counts were near normal, with three in Illinois and one in Indiana. The only W. Grebes were identified on Clearfork Res., OH, 15–18 Dec (JHe, m.ob.) and on Kentucky L., KY, 21 Feb (DR).

American White Pelicans were unusually plentiful in the w. states, with counts exceeding 200 in Illinois and Missouri; one wandered e. to *Mahoning*, OH, where it was observed 19–20 Dec (BJo, LRo). Other than a concentration of 1750 at Rend L., IL (KMc, RZ), Double-crested Cormorants were surprisingly scarce. Lingering Great Egrets at

Port Clinton, OH, 25 Dec (JPg), *Cook*, IL, 19 Dec (AS), and McKee Marsh, IL, 18 Dec (EW) were exceptionally late for these northerly sites. Excellent winter Black Vulture counts included 400 near Aberdeen, OH, 2 Dec (BL) and a record-high Kentucky tally of 192 at the Ghent Power Plant 18 Dec (*fide* BPB).

WATERFOWL

Following the recent expansion pattern, numbers of all geese species were again high this winter. Perhaps the best barometer of goose abundance is provided by Ross's Goose, which was reported in all six states, with double-digit maximum counts in the three w. states. In concert with upper Midwestern reintroduction programs, Trumpeter Swans are now appearing regularly in the Region. This winter's peak count was 22 in *Webster*, IA, 4 Dec, and there were also reports from Missouri and Ohio.

Duck numbers were similar to those over the past two warm winters. Unusual puddle duck reports included a Eur. Wigeon at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 27 Feb (*fide* G. Links), numerous early Blue-winged Teal that arrived in late Feb, and a record-early Cinnamon Teal in *Marshall*, IA, 22–24 Feb (MP, PA, RA). Harlequins were reported only on L. Michigan, where an imm. male and female were identified at Waukegan, IL, 5 Feb (AS) and a female was seen off Beverly Shores, IN, 27 & 29 Feb (B&SJ, BGr). The only other unusual sea duck report consisted of 14 Black Scoters at Spirit L., IA, 6–12 Dec (LSc, ETh), which is a most remarkable winter count for an inland site. The Region's largest Hooded Merganser concentration consisted of 600 at Saylorville Res., IA, 4 Dec (DT, JD). West of the Mississippi R., peak Red-breasted Mergansers counts included 16 at Lost Island L., IA, 26 Feb (LSc) and two males at Smithville L., MO, 9 Jan (MRo).

EAGLES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Several correspondents noted lower Bald Eagle numbers this winter, suggesting that the absence of ice failed to concentrate them. Despite this dispersal every state except Kentucky reported peak counts exceeding 100 birds. An impressive N. Harrier tally of 44 birds, at Taberville Prairie, MO, was logged at sunset 16 Jan (MRo). The eleven N. Goshawks reported in the four n. states is about typical for a non-invasion year. Most remarkable among the 21 Golden Eagles reported this winter was the presence of at least six birds in Ohio; this number is unprecedented for that state. The winter Merlin presence in the Region remained strong, with multiple reports from all six states. Interestingly, several of the pale *richardsonii* form were found in Iowa and Missouri. Surprisingly, 20–25 of the 53 Greater Prairie-Chickens observed at Prairie S.P., MO, 16 Dec, were displaying (MRo). Without doubt Virginia Rails are regular, though rarely reported, winter residents in the Region; consequently, the bird seen 2 Jan in *Muhlenberg*, KY (DOb), is noteworthy. For the third consecutive winter Sandhill Cranes were widespread in the Region. Perhaps the most impressive single report consisted of 220+ over Spring Grove Cemetery, *Hamilton*, OH, 24 Dec (JRa).

Along with the milder winters, shorebirds have become a regular complement of this season's report. This year ten species were logged in the Region. Numerous Greater Yellowlegs lingered into December, the latest on the 26 Dec, e. Cincinnati, OH, CBC (*fide* RHa). February Lesser Yellowlegs arrived in four states; the vanguard of this entourage appeared at Schell-Osage W.M.A., MO, 9 Feb (LL). A Spotted Sandpiper spent the dead of winter in cen. Illinois at L. Springfield 25 Jan–15 Feb (†DBo). Least Sandpipers were reported in December in five states, and a surprising number of hardy individuals lingered into January, with 17 at Paradise, KY, 2 Jan (some still present 18 Jan, *fide* BPB) and seven at Montrose W.M.A., MO, 16 Jan (MRo). The only Pectoral Sandpiper report consisted of an early spring migrant that arrived at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 29 Feb (VF). Purple Sandpiper reports were restricted to L. Erie, where three were found along the Ohio lakefront. Continuing the pattern of recent years, December Dunlins were reported in four states; the only mid-winter report consisted of one at Montrose, Chicago, 9 Jan (AS). Up to 86 Com. Snipe were at L. Monroe, IN, 2–10 Dec (LSt, DWh), which constitutes an exceptional winter tally. Many correspondents com-

SA Whooper Swans made a stately entry into the Region this winter when three free-flying singletons appeared at widely separated locations. It appears quite doubtful, however, that any of the three were of wild origin. The first Whooper was found 7 Jan in se. *Lee*, IA, on pool #19 of the Mississippi R. (CFu). This individual apparently moved about quite a bit and soon disappeared (†CE, †JF, †TKt, JSh, m.ob.), only to be relocated 5 Mar (*fide* JD). The second bird lingered on the e. side of Cincinnati, OH, 22 Jan–16 Feb (BWh et al.) until it disappeared into a restricted area; it was ultimately rediscovered 8 Mar (Jay Lehman, *fide* RHa). The third Whooper, a highly oiled adult, was on L. Michigan at Miller Beach, IN, 25–26 Feb (†KB, †JCd, m.ob.). Augmenting this Regional incursion was a fourth adult that was captured in N. Dakota; this bird was believed to have been an escapee (*fide* P. Scherr).

Although the precise origin of the Middlewestern Prairie Region Whoopers remains problematical, there exists an ambient feral/captive population in the eastern half of the Continent. The best documented group is in Massachusetts, where three birds escaped from a Long Island, NY, breeder in March 1993 (*FN* 49:126) and became established in the Ipswich/Plum I., MA, area (*AB* 47:395, *FN* 48:187, *FN* 49:31, 228), with breeding reported (*FN* 52:28, *NAB* 53:31). Wandering Whoopers found in Labrador, New England, Pennsylvania, and Québec have been attributed (though not with unanimous agreement) to this prolific group (*FN* 49:11,13,17, *FN* 49:131, *NAB* 53:144).

Although there is a dearth of published reports from geographical areas further west, Whooper Swans have also made their presence known there. Peder Svingen (pers. comm.) notes that Whoopers have been reported in Minnesota almost annually throughout the 1990s, including an adult with four young in 1998. These birds were all deemed escapees; no valid records exist for Minnesota (*fide* Bob Janssen). Another seen in Missouri in March 1995 suffered a similar fate (*fide* MRo). In 1998 a captive pair bred near Rockford, IL; though five young hatched only one fledged (*fide* Dan Williams). No doubt other birds are present, but because they are deemed uncountable by birders, they are usually ignored. Some biologists have suggested that Whoopers may duplicate the invasion pattern of Mute Swans, consequently, the population warrants monitoring.

mented about early Am. Woodcock arrivals; the earliest among these appeared 10 Feb near Cincinnati, OH (TSl), and in *Pulaski*, IL, 11 Feb (FBe).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

Reports of lingering Franklin's Gulls included an ad. on the Mississippi R. in *Hancock*, IL, 8 Jan (DBo, BDy, DKa, MDe), an alternate ad. in *Lee*, IA, 8 Jan (JF, TKt), and one in *Madison*, IL, 17 Jan (JZ, TBe). The only Little Gull consisted of an ad. at L. Shelbyville, IL, 5 Dec (RCh). Adult California Gulls were found at Michigan City Harbor, IN, 11 Dec (†KB, †JCd, m.ob.) and in Chicago 22–23 Jan (MRe, JRi, JL, ph.). Despite the mild winter large gull numbers were better in most areas (L. Erie and the St. Louis area excepted) than in the last few years. Thayer's Gulls were unusually common both in Illinois and Indiana. The peak count consisted of 15 (10 adults, three first-year, and two second-year birds) at Pekin 30 Jan (MRe), a record count for Illinois and the Region. Above-normal Iceland Gull numbers were also observed in these two states, where the peak consisted of four at Pekin, IL, 30 Jan (MRe). Both black-backed gulls were reported in all six states; the southernmost Lesser Black-backed report consisted of "several" at Kentucky Dam 5–6 Feb (BPB). Great Black-backeds have truly invaded the Region. This winter a bumper crop appeared on L. Michigan, including a state high daily count of ten off the Migrant Trap, IN, 19 Feb (RHu). Additionally, inland birds were logged in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri. After two winters of short supply, Glaucous Gull numbers returned to normal this winter with reports from all six states. One persevering adult Glaucous lingered on L. Monroe, IN, 17 Dec–10 Jan, establishing a first local record (J&SH, m.ob.). It was a fine winter for Black-legged Kittiwakes, with three singletons reported in Illinois and a juv. at Meldahl Dam, KY, 4–15 Dec (FR, ph.). The presence of terns in the winter report attests to the season's mildness. A very tardy Caspian Tern was reported at Newton Lake, IL, 2 Dec (JWa, JSm, AH, RHl). At the other extreme four overzealous Forster's Terns arrived at Kentucky L., KY, 27 Feb (HC), providing one of a handful of winter records for that state.

Eurasian Collard-Doves were reported from every state except Indiana and Ohio; the peak count was ten in *Pulaski*, IL, 10 Dec (FBe), but most reporting states listed multiple birds. Snowy Owls staged a feeble flight, with 1–3 birds reported in every state except Kentucky. Short-eared Owl concentrations included 30–50 birds that wintered at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, IL (JWa), 21 in *Wayne*, IA, 24 Dec (ABr), and 20 at the Wendell Ford Regional Training Center, KY, 9 Feb (BPB). The elusive N. Saw-whet Owl was anything but elusive this winter, with an unprecedented 25 birds reported across the Region's six states. The southernmost report came from *Hart*, KY, where two calling birds were heard 17 Feb (SKs).

After decades with few records east of the Great Plains, the California Gull is being recorded with regularity in the East. This adult was one of two present in Chicago, Illinois, 22–23 Jan 2000; it was photographed on the latter date. Photograph by James Landing.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Two Red-shafted Flickers were reported in Iowa; one in Story 22 Jan (B. Clark *fide* JD) and the other in Mason City 23–27 Jan (CFi). Eastern Phoebes were unusually numerous this winter, with six birds in Illinois, five in Kentucky, and three in Ohio. Kentucky's second **Say's Phoebe** was discovered in *Logan* 28 Dec and remained until 14 Jan (MB, DR, BPB, ph.). The Region experienced a major invasion of N. Shrikes, with some 80 birds distributed across every state except Kentucky. As expected the greatest numbers appeared in the n. states; 25 were reported in Iowa, 24 in Ohio, and 21 in Illinois. However, at least two birds pressed s. to the St Louis, MO, area. The first was at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A. 11 Dec (WR) and the second was discovered 12 Dec in *St. Charles* and remained there until at least 11 Feb (P&BJ, m.ob). The **Western Scrub-Jay** that arrived in *Tippecanoe*, IN, last fall continued to visit the local feeding station until 28 Jan, when it is suspected to have fallen prey to a marauding hawk (*fide* BDu). Early arriving Fish Crows provided a new species for the winter report. At least one was calling in *Hickman*, KY, 16 Feb (BPB), one was in *Union*, IL, 19 Feb (KMc, FBe), and two were identified at Ft. Massac S.P., IL, 28 Feb (FBe). In w. Iowa two Black-billed Magpies were seen 11 Dec in *Plymouth* where one was reported last fall; one was still present in late Jan (S. Moats, *fide* JD).

Late February Tree Swallows appeared in Kentucky and Missouri and one overzealous migrant was seen at Magee Marsh, OH, 28 Feb (RHa, SW). An extremely late N. Rough-winged Swallows lingered on the Maumee R., *Lucas*, OH, until 11–12 Dec (ETr, TKp) and at Maumee Bay S.P., OH, until 5 Dec (KG, JMc, et al.). Kentucky's first confirmed **Black-capped Chickadees** were present in rural sw. *Boyd* (L. Tower, BPB, ph.), some 150 mi s. of the species' normal range. One of the two birds present was captured, measured (well within Black-capped range), and photographed (BPB). Perhaps their appearance was in concert with a "good-sized" movement reported in cen. Ohio (*fide* RHa). Wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in moderate numbers across the Region. Following last winter's incredibly productive Sedge Wren census at Prairie S.P., MO, which yielded 33 birds, Mark Robbins repeated the exact survey on 16 Dec this year, but found only four birds. According to Robbins, the primary habitat appeared identical both years. One other Sedge Wren was reported at Carlyle L., 19 Dec (DKa). Marsh Wrens were reported only in s.

reaches of the Region, with two in Kentucky and one in Missouri. Both kinglets were widely reported and in the St. Louis area Ruby-crowneds were deemed unusually common (WR). Although Am. Robins were generally less common than last winter, a hefty tally of 4338 was logged 26 Dec in *Lake*, IL (AA, et al.). It was a better-than-average winter for Varied Thrushes, with four singletons. Reports included a male at Waterloo, IA, 8–23 Jan (MDo et al.), a male in the Indiana Dunes 16 Jan–22 Feb (SBg, m.ob.), a male at Rock Falls, IA, 20–29 Jan (JWl), and a female that fed on millet in *Winneshiek*, IA, 24 Jan–21 Feb (DC). American Pipits lingered in good numbers, providing reports from every state except Missouri. The peak count consisted of a flock of 100+ near L. Waveland, IN, 27 Dec (AB, CM). The only documented Bohemian Waxwing occurred in cen. Illinois at Rochester 22, 23, & 25 Jan (†DBo, †RCh, BDy, m.ob).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Nine warbler species were recorded in the Region, which is a typical number for the recent mild winters. The more unusual of these included a Nashville in Chicago's Grant Park, 9 Dec (DSt), Iowa's 2nd wintering Cape May, an ad. male, in Cedar Rapids 22 Dec–23 Jan (J. Miller, †MDo, †TKt, ph.), a Prairie at Warsaw, KY, 18 Dec (TSp, KF, BPB), and an Am. Redstart in Chicago 6 Dec (AW).

Spotted Towhee reports included two in Illinois and one each in Indiana and Iowa. The mild season had Chipping Sparrows reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. The only Vesper Sparrow report consisted of a one at Iowa City, 19 Dec (CE). Either winter Le Conte's Sparrow numbers are increasing or birders are becoming more skillful at locating these furtive birds. This winter multiple Le Conte's were reported in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri. The peak count consisted of 12+ at Prairie S.P., MO, 16 Dec (MRo). Lincoln's Sparrows, which in former winters were quite rare, appeared in impressive numbers this season, with seven in Illinois, plus singletons in Iowa and Missouri. Triple-digit Lapland Longspur tallies were reported from every state except Kentucky. The largest count consisted of 2300 near Elletsville, IN, 6 Feb (LSt, JV), but 2100 migrants were also seen flying past Maumee Bay S.P., OH, 26 Feb (VF). Snow Buntings followed a similar pattern with counts exceeding 300 in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio. One bird wandered s. to *Boone*, KY, where it was seen within a Horned Lark-longspur flock 22 Jan (BPB). A Dickcissel wintered near the *Holmes/Coshocton*, OH, line (*fide* BGl), where this species is casual in winter.

Unusually large icterid flocks lingered in the s. states as evidenced by a flock estimated to contain one million birds, dominantly Com. Grackles, at Pere Marquette, MO, 18 Dec (WR) and 300,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at Rend L., IL, on the same day (KMc). Other unusual icterids included a singing W. Meadowlark in *Fulton*, KY, 17 Feb (BPB) and a female Yellow-headed Blackbird in *Meade*, KY, 31 Dec (BPB). The most impressive report within this avian group, however, consisted of a female **Great-tailed Grackle** at Sangamon L., IL, 2 Feb (†DBo), which provided one of few records for the state. In w. Missouri 476 Great-taileds were counted at L. Contray, 8 Feb (JHi), attesting to the expansion of this species in the Region.

Despite encouraging activity during the autumn migration, the winter finch invasion was less than spectacular. The singular highlight was a moderately strong White-winged Crossbill incursion that sent birders scurrying to local cemeteries, where the birds showed a penchant for hemlock. This flight yielded daily counts of one to 40 birds in each of the Region's six states; the peak count was 40 at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne, IN, 11 Feb (*fide* Haw). Otherwise winter finches consisted of modest Purple Finch and Red Crossbill numbers, plus a scattering of Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins. Perhaps the season's best winter finch was a Hoary Redpoll that frequented a Skokie, IL, feeder 7–29 Feb, (†RCh, SBy, JL, GW, EW, m.ob.), much to the delight of Illinois birders. Evening Grosbeaks were decidedly scarce, with only single reports from two states. Strength of the Eur. Tree Sparrow expansion into cen. Illinois was vividly demonstrated by a count of 400 birds in Snicarte, *Mason*, 13 Jan (VK).

SA Orioles added a splash of color and an element of excitement to the winter season. An imm. or female Baltimore Oriole was at Everly, IA, 26 Nov–21 Dec (LSc). More remarkably, a male **Bullock's Oriole**, which apparently arrived 4 Nov but was not seen by birders until 17 Dec, remained through the season (†TKt, JF, MP, AJ, ph.) to provide Iowa's 3rd record. Amazingly, the Region's first **Scott's Oriole** attended a feeder in Toulon, *Stark*, IL, from about 15 Jan–3 Feb (Pam Sprout). Disappointingly, no experienced birders saw the bird, but excellent photos were evaluated by Richard Palmer and Will Russell; both agreed unequivocally that the bird was an imm. male Scott's Oriole. These records, in concert with the January 1998 imm. Streaked-backed Oriole in Wisconsin (*NAB* 53:390), suggest that all winter orioles in the Region should be carefully scrutinized.

RARITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

Indiana: Photos of the roadkill Bridled/Sooty Tern found in Indianapolis 24 Feb 1998 (*Field Notes* 52:205) were examined by experts, who agreed that the bird was a **Sooty Tern**; this species has now been added to the Indiana state list. **Ohio:** A Pine Grosbeak report from *Paulding*, OH, 20 Oct reported in the fall 1999 *FN* summary was rejected.

Contributors (Subregional editors in boldface): Many other individuals who could not be personally acknowledged also submitted notes to the various state reports.

Alan Anderson, Hank Armstrong, Pam Allen, Reid Allen, Emil Bacik, Susan Bagby (SBg), Steve Bailey (SBy), Frank Bennett (FBe), Mark Bennett, Torrey Berger (TBe), David Bohlen (DBo), Aaron Brees (ABr), **Alan Bruner** (AB) (Indiana), Dennis Carter, John Cassady (JCd), John Castrale (JCs), **Robert Cecil** (RCe)(Iowa), Robert Chapel (RCh), Hap Chambers, Myrna Deaton (MDe), James Dinsmore, Steven Dinsmore (SD), David Dister, Michael Dooley (MDo), Jon Duerr (JDr), Barny Dunning (BDu), Becky Dyer (BDy), Dave Easterla, Chris Edwards, Vic Fazio, Carolyn Fischer (CFi), Kevin Flowers, Chuck Fuller (CFu), Jim Fuller, Larry Gara, Kent Glauser, Bruce Glick (BGl), Brendan Grube (BGr), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Regina Hantle (RHl), **Rob Harlan** (RHa) (Ohio), Jim Haw (Haw), Jim & Susan Hengeveld (J & SH), John Herman (JHe), Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Robert Hughes (RHu), Bill Huser, **Brad Jacobs** (BJa) (Missouri), Brad & Scott Jackson (B & SJ), **Ann Johnson** (Iowa), Paul & Barbara Johnson (P & BJ), Bill Jones (BJo), Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Tom Kemp (TKp), Thomas Kent (TKt), Matt Kenne, Steve Kinder (SKd), Steve Kistler (SKs), Vernon Kleen, Laurence Lambert, James Landing, Barbara Lund, Walter Marcisz, Jeff McCoy (JMc), **Kelly McKay** (KMk) (Illinois), Keith McMullen (KMc), Lee McNeely (LMc), Joe Milosevich (JMi), Clint Murray, Darrin O'Brien (DOb, Doug Overacker (DOv), Babs Paddleford, Loren Paddleford, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik (JPg), Mark Proescholdt, John Rakestraw (JRa), Frank Renfrow, Mike Retter (MRe), Justin Rink (JRi),

Mark Robbins (MRo), David Roemer, Larry Rosche (LRo), William Rowe, Jim Scheib (JSh), Ed Schlabach, Lee Schoenewe (LSc), Darrell Shambaugh (DSh), Jim Sinclair (JSi), James Smith (JSm), Tammie Stanley (TSl), Tommy Stephens (TSp), Lee Sterrenburg (LSt), Alan Stokie, Doug Stotz (DSt), Ed Thelen (ETh), Dennis Thompson, Elliot Tramer (ETr), Joe Van Reit (JV), Sandy Wagner, Jeff Walk (JWa), Jan Walter (JWl), Eric Walters, Allan Welby, Bill Whan (BWh), Don Whitehead (DWh), Geoff Williamson, Jim Ziebol, and Ray Zoanetti.

central southern

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This report is my tenth and last covering the winter season in the Region. During the decade that has elapsed since I began reporting, many changes in the Regional avifauna have transpired and it has been enjoyable to document many of them in the pages of this journal and its forerunners. I thank the subregional editors who simplified my task by timely submission of properly formatted and annotated bird records, and I thank all the regional observers who voluntarily provided records to the subregional editors. Louisiana observers especially deserve thanks for their collective and seemingly inexhaustible willingness to provide exemplary documentation for the many unusual avian events annually occurring in the Bayou State.

The weather throughout the Region for the last full winter of the second millennium was generally warm and dry, with only a short spate of cold and snow in mid-January disturbing this pattern.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

Red-throated and Pacific Loons were reported from several widely scattered sites, solidifying their status as rare but regular winter residents; at least one of the former probably wintered as far north as *Henry*, TN, where the species was reported in Dec and Feb (JRW). Also rare Regionally but not so regular, a Red-necked Grebe remained in *Henry*, TN, 12 Feb (JRW, m.ob.). An Alabama maximum for Eared Grebe was established 3 Jan when 22 were counted in *Baldwin* (AM†, AlM). A W. Grebe visited *Washington*, AR, 6 Feb (KN, LN), the only Regional report.

Fifty Sooty Shearwaters just offshore from *Escambia* 14 Jan (JF†) provided a Florida maximum. On the Green Canyon 18 oil platform, 110 mi s. of Morgan City, LA, an Audubon's Shearwater was seen briefly but well 20 Jan (RLK†); an Audubon's-type shearwater was also there 19 Feb (SJP†) as was a sub-adult Masked Booby 14 Jan (RLK†). Single imm. Brown Boobies were noted in *Mobile* and *Baldwin*, AL, 22 Dec (MVH†, RWH) and 28 Jan (SER†), respectively. Only the 14th for Alabama, a Great Cormorant was on Dauphin Island, *Mobile*, 14–22 Dec (MVH†, RWH). A fifth local winter record, an Anhinga stayed briefly in *Noxubee*, MS, 7 Dec (TLS). American White Pelican counts numbering 122 and 129 were made in *Lake*, TN, 5 Dec (JRW) and *Lowndes/Clay*, MS, 19 Jan (TLS), respectively. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill was seen fairly far inland 29 Dec in *Evangeline*, LA (DLD, PC, JC, SWC).

Two adult Tundra Swans stayed in *Cleburne*, AR, 3 Dec (KN, LN), while one adult and two immatures were noted in *Newton* and *Lowndes*, MS, Dec–Jan (SA, MS) and 13 Feb (TLS†), respectively. Quite rare and irregular Regionally, a Brant was present in *Cameron*, LA, 17 Dec (DPM†, BMM†, JPS†). One hundred Ross's Geese in *Desha* 22 Feb (RHS, JP) constituted a high Arkansas count; a single in *Baldwin* 29 and 31 Jan (AM, AlM) was the 5th for coastal Alabama, and another in *Shelby* 5 & 7 Feb (AM†, AlM) represented the first for Alabama's Mountain Region; 2530 in *Jefferson Davis* 17 Dec (SWC, DLD) were by far a record count for one Louisiana parish. The Cinnamon Teal present in *Orleans*, LA, the last two winters returned for a third year 2 Dec–13 Feb (GO, DPM), while another was ably described and sketched from *Cameron* 17 Dec (MAS†, JPK, MGu). A flock of 2500+ Canvasbacks in *Henry*, TN, 1 Jan (JRW) was present at a site where large flocks have been noted in the past. A flock of 1000+ Greater Scaups 9 Feb in *Colbert/Lauderdale*, AL (DJS), provided a maximum state count. Scarce in Arkansas, single Black Scoters were noted in *Prairie*, *Yell/Pope*, and *Yell* 5 Dec (KN, LN), 11–18 Dec (KN, LN, HP, MP), and 30 Dec (KN, LN), respectively; at least 12 were noted in *Baldwin*, AL, during Jan (BS, AM, AlM); a single was noted 1–3 Dec in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS); and another single appeared sporadically in *Cameron*, LA, 11 & 20 Dec (PW, PC, Bve). Single female Long-tailed Ducks were identified in *Chicot* and *Yell/Pope*, AR, 22 Dec (LA) and 16 Jan (KN, LN), respectively; another female visited St. *Tammany*, LA, 17 Jan (BMM, PW, CK).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Lone White-tailed Kites in *Evangeline* and *Vernon*, LA, 29 Dec (RJB) and 24 Feb (CM), respectively, were unusual at those inland sites, the latter record also being a parish first. Continuing a fall record, a White-tailed Hawk, presumably the same bird present during the winters of 1996–1997 and 1997–1998, was in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, until at least 31 Jan (BF†, PC, RLK). Two ad. and two imm. Golden Eagles were counted in Arkansas during December but none thereafter; three of varying ages were in *Henry*, TN, 5 Dec (ph. JRW), with one adult still present 1 Jan (JRW). At least two were in *Noxubee*, MS, during the season, one on 23 Feb tying the late departure date (MCo, DP, JP), while others were noted in *Bolivar* and *Lafayette*, MS; the only Louisiana sighting took place 17 Dec in *Jefferson Davis* (DLD et al.). The *Yalobusha*, MS, Prairie Falcon returned for its ninth consecutive winter (GK†, SK).

Seldom observed, Yellow Rails were viewed in *Cameron*, LA, 18 Dec (PW) and *Jackson*, MS, 12 Feb (DCi). Eighteen Sandhill Cranes noted considerably w. of their usual migration corridor in *Desha*, AR, 21 Feb (RHD, JP) were probably migrating, and 25 others were present 26 Feb in *Marion*, AR (BJ, PJ). Three in *Elmore*, AL, 23 Jan (LG) were locally rare, but somewhat larger groups at Wheeler and Eufaula N.W.R.s were regular at those sites; 211 in *Tunica* 20 Feb (JRW ph.) pro-

vided a modern maximum for Mississippi, while 158 in *Quitman* 2 Jan (*fide* FB) were also notable. Another 1000+ spent the period in *Obion*, TN (RG, TDP), up considerably from last year's then-high wintering numbers; somewhat early migration, perhaps triggered by depletion of food resources at se. Tennessee wintering sites, was noted in *Putnam* and *Pickett*, TN, where 3500 and 5500 flew north 15 (RH, WB) & 16 Feb (WHG), respectively. Winter Sandhill numbers continued to increase in Louisiana, where 300 were present in *Calcasieu* 15 Jan (JPK, DR).

Snowy Plovers have hung on in coastal Mississippi, four being identified in *Harrison* 7 Feb (DB, JB). Alabama's second winter record of Solitary Sandpiper took place 1–2 Jan in *Baldwin* (HHK et al.); four Louisiana parishes also hosted solitary Solitaries. Earliest ever in Alabama's Tennessee Valley, a Pectoral Sandpiper showed up in *Limestone* 13 Feb (DRC†, RC). A late Sanderling visited *Henry*, TN, 12 Dec (JRW). Fifth locally, a Purple Sandpiper in *Santa Rosa*, FL, 27–29 Feb (PCT, BT) was the first to be identified there in 21 years.

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS

Pomarine Jaegers in small to moderate numbers (up to 21) were daily visitors to the Green Canyon 18 oil platform, LA, from mid-Jan until late Feb (RLK, BMM, SJP). Lone Franklin's Gulls in *Lauderdale* 5 Dec (GNP, MA†) and *Baldwin* 1 Jan (RRR) bracketed Alabama latitudinally; another visited *Shelby*, TN, 19 Dec (MGW†, RP†, LZ), while two were noted in *Lake*, TN, 27 Feb (JRW). An *alternate-plumaged adult* in *Cameron*, LA, 18 Dec (CW, DCh, DLD, SWC) was a show-stopper, while an imm. lingered in *Plaquemines*, LA, 3 Jan (DPM, JPS, KR); finally, one was found in *Okaloosa*, FL, 23 Dec (DMW†). A Laughing Gull in *Yell*, AR, 11 Dec (KN, LN, m.ob.) was rare, as was another in *Pulaski*, AR, 6–8 Jan (KN, LN). A first-year Thayer's Gull in *Henry*, TN, 5 Feb (JRW†) was also rare. One Tennessee county, at least two Louisiana parishes, and three Alabama counties hosted Lesser Black-backed Gulls, more evidence of this species' slow but continuing Regional increase. Great Black-backed Gulls in *Lafourche* and *Jefferson*, LA, 5 Feb (PW†, JPS†) and 22 Feb (PY†) were rarities. Seventh in Arkansas, a Black-legged Kittiwake appeared 12–13 Dec in Yell (KN, LN et al.); an imm. visited *Cameron*, LA, 20 Dec (DLD, SWC*). Its black shoulder bar well-described, a Com. Tern was in *Franklin*, FL, 28 Dec (BHS); at least one showed up in St. *Tammany*, LA, 11 (KF) & 30 (MW) Dec, and four ventured into *Cameron* 11 Dec (PW).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to make inroads inland, with birds sighted in at least nine Arkansas counties (*fide* MP, HP), many being first local records; in Alabama, a Tennessee Valley maximum was achieved 22 Dec when 96 were tallied in *Limestone* (SWM), while 265 in *Baldwin* 1 Jan (*fide* GDJ) established a state maximum. In Tennessee records came from *Obion* and *Lake* (JRW); two adults with one *young* were reported in *Iberia*, LA, in Dec (MJM ph., JJ). White-winged Doves, also rare inland just a few years ago, appeared in *Little River* (DA, CM, MD) and *Columbia*, AR (SL, DD); White-wingeds continued to increase in Louisiana (*fide* SWC). A locally rare Inca Dove was in *Ashley*, AR, 11 Feb (RHD, JP).

Long-eared Owls were reported more frequently than usual: a road-killed bird was found in *Sevier*, AR, 17 Dec (DA), while a live one appeared in *Pope*, AR, 20 Dec (LA); at least four were in *Obion*, TN, throughout the period (TDP, ph. JRW), and another stayed 19 Dec through season's end in *Lake*, TN (JRW); in Louisiana a road-killed bird was found 12 Feb in *DeSoto* (JLI*). In *Tunica*, MS, 38 Short-eared Owls 28 Dec (JRW, GK, SK) were noteworthy; the largest daily total elsewhere involved 20+ in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, 24 Dec (JPK, DR). A malnourished N. Saw whet Owl was captured in *Crittendon*, AR, 30 Dec (OKM), rehabilitated in nearby *Shelby*, TN, and released 3 Jan (*fide* HP, MP), providing the only evidence of the species during an irruption year.

Scarce in the United States in winter, this Least Flycatcher at Plaquemines, Louisiana, 20 Feb obliged observers with calls. Photograph by B. Wallace.

CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH PIPITS

Rare Regionally during winter, three Com. Nighthawks foraged 29 Dec in *Gulf*, FL (BHS); singles stayed late in Tennessee, one flying *north* 17 Dec in *Lake* (CGD) and another occurring 26 Jan in *Shelby* (OKM). Unidentified nighthawks in *Mobile*, AL (MC), and St. *Tammany*, LA (MW, BW), both 30 Dec, were also of interest. Chuck-will's-widows wintered along the Louisiana coast more abundantly than usual, including 9 in *Plaquemines* 3 Jan ((DPM et al.). Arkansas' third **White-throated Swift** was at Dardanelle Dam in *Pope/Yell* 11–12 Dec (KN†, LN, HP, MP, m.ob.).

A Calliope Hummingbird stayed in *Davidson*, TN, for the 3rd consecutive winter (*fide* CAS), and a *Selasphorus* was in *Shelby*, TN, 3–5 Jan (VBR, WRP). Banded during its stay, an imm. male Rufous Hummingbird wintered in *Yell*, AR (HP, MP), while an imm. female was banded 1 Dec in *Pulaski*, AR (LW, HP, MP). Both Calliope and Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were banded in nw. Florida by Fred Bassett, whose separate efforts in Alabama resulted

This lovely Lark Sparrow was photographed during the first day of its two-day visit to LeFlore, Mississippi, 28–29 Jan 2000. Photograph by Terence Schiefer.

in the following fine banding totals: Ruby-throated (8), Black-chinned (14), Calliope (2), Broad-tailed (1), Rufous (15), and Allen's (1). Mississippi hosted two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, one each in *Harrison* and *Hancock*, both banded (BC); at least two Rufous Hummingbirds were also noted in the Magnolia State. Excellent Louisiana banding totals by Nancy Newfield and Dave Patton follow: Broad-billed (1), Buff-bellied (21), Ruby-throated (15), Black-chinned (17), Anna's (2), Calliope (9), Broad-tailed (7), Rufous (87), and Allen's (7). At least one other Broad-billed Hummingbird was present in *Ascension*, LA, but not banded (MLD†, LCB†). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird returning to Louisiana set a longevity record of nearly nine years (NN).

In *Plaquemines*, LA, a **Great Kiskadee**, probably the same one found there in April 1999, was reported 3 (DPM†) & 22 Jan (DCl†). An *Empidonax* believed to be a Least was seen and heard in *Plaquemines*, LA, 20 Feb (DPM, PW); another probable Least ventured to *Jefferson*, LA, 5 & 12 Feb (PY). Occasional inland, a Vermilion Flycatcher visited *Barbour*, AL, 14 Dec–6 Feb (BF, CN†, m.ob.); at least two others were closer to the coast in *Hancock*, MS, until 11 Jan (JB, SJP, m.ob.). Casual in the Region, a Say's Phoebe was noted in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, 17 Dec (CW*, DCh). Five Ash-throated and at least two Brown-crested Flycatchers were found in Louisiana, the former mostly in Dec on CBCs and the latter in late Feb. An E. Kingbird in *Okaloosa*, FL, 20 Dec (HH†, GS) provided a first local winter record. **Seventeen** Scissor-tailed Flycatchers festooned the fields 20 Feb in *Plaquemines*, LA (PW, DPM).

One Bell's Vireo, a rare Louisiana winterer, was noted 18 Dec on the Sabine CBC (BMM†, RDP†); not to be outdone, two showed up 19 Dec on the Johnson's Bayou CBC (BF†, SWC*) . Earliest ever locally by four days, a Purple Martin was in *Lowndes*, MS, 7 Feb (KK). Evidence of a substantial irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches was provided by results of many Regional CBCs; 38 clocked in 18 Dec (*fide* GDJ) on the Waterloo CBC, establishing a Tennessee Valley maximum for Alabama. Three Brown-headed Nuthatches at Pickwick Dam, *Hardin*, 30 Dec (JRW) provided evidence of the species' continuing presence in the western sector of the Volunteer State.

A Bewick's Wren in *Madison*, MS, 29 Dec (DW) was the only one reported away from Louisiana, where diligent searching by CBC participants turned up singles in *Acadia*, *Caddo*, *Catahoula*, and *Evangeline*. Very rare in Arkansas, a Rock Wren was in *Cleburne* 4 Dec–1 Jan (BV, KN, LN). American Robin numbers were excellent last winter in southern Louisiana, but numbers this winter were the lowest Muth could recollect in the New Orleans area. Rare and elusive, Sprague's Pipits were noted inland at several sites: singles in *Jefferson* and *Prairie*, AR, 19 (RHD†) & 23 Dec (GL†), respectively; and one-two in Shelby, TN, 21 & 26 Jan (JRW†).

PARULIDS THROUGH TANAGERS

Considered early, two N. Parulas were in *Hancock*, MS, 29 Feb (SJP, m.ob.), while one 19 Feb on the Green Canyon 18 oil platform tied the early date for "Louisiana" (SJP). Extending a fall record, the **Tropical Parula** in *Caddo*, LA, remained to at least 20 Dec and was recorded on the Shreveport CBC (CL†, CMo, KF, SM†). A Cape May Warbler in *Washington* 19 Dec (MM†, DC) provided Arkansas's second winter record, while Alabama's 4th winter record came 1 Jan in *Baldwin* (RRR†). The second winter record of Black-throated Blue Warbler in Arkansas was provided by a male in *Washington* 9–20 Dec (MMu, JN†, MM, DC).

A total of 357 Pine Warblers on the Gulf Shores CBC 1 Jan (*fide* GDJ) established an Alabama coastal maximum. Single Prairie Warblers at two separate sites in *Baldwin* 1 Jan (JVP, PCT) provided the 7th and 8th Alabama winter records; many were reported in Louisiana. Migrating early or overwintering, an adult male Am. Redstart brought a splash of color to *Plaquemines*, LA, 27 Feb (BMM, RDP, PW). Possibly the same bird present in *Prairie*, AR, last winter, an Ovenbird stayed there 1 Dec–13 Feb (RS, TS), continuing a late fall report. First locally in winter, a Com. Yellowthroat was in *Putnam*, TN, 18 Dec (SJS). Extremely rare in winter, a male Hooded Warbler brightened the *Lafourche*, LA, woods 2 Jan (MR, LD). Eighth in Alabama during winter, a Wilson's Warbler was in *Baldwin* 1 Jan (PCT, BT); another was in *Harrison*, MS, 21 Jan (SJP et al.); coastal Louisiana enjoyed a veritable cornucopia of wintering Wilson's, including 37 on the Venice CBC. The only report of W. Tanager came from *Jefferson*, LA, 19 Dec (PY†).

TOWHEES THROUGH CROSSBILLS

An adult male Spotted Towhee skulked in *Henry*, TN, 2 Jan (JRW et al.). Small groups of four and two Lark Sparrows were noted in *Yell* and *Little River*, AR, 20 Dec (KN, LN) and 23 Jan (DA, CM, MD), respectively; another appeared in *Leflore*, MS, 28–29 Jan (ph. PB, KB); and still another was well-described in *St. Charles*, LA, 31 Dec (KS, AM). Casual inland in Alabama, a Clay-colored Sparrow was noted in *Barbour* 11 Feb (DMW†, LF). Small assemblages (<10) of Le Conte's Sparrows were noted in *Tallahatchie* and *Quitman*, MS, throughout the season (FB). Only one report of Henslow's Sparrow emanated from Ar-kansas, a single 8 Jan in *Calhoun* (JC); a few more reports came from Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Lone Harris's Sparrows frequented *Shelby*, TN, 19 Dec–20 Jan (DP, VH, ph. JRW, MG) and *Cameron*, LA, 18–19 Dec (DPM, PY, KR, m.ob.). Also seen in *Cameron* 18 Dec (PY†, DPM†, KR) was a Golden-crowned Sparrow, the third or fourth for Louisiana. Heard only, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was noted in *Orleans*, LA, 23 Jan (DPM). A male Painted Bunting in *Baldwin* 3 & 20 Jan (JD) was considered rare; at least four Louisiana parishes contributed additional records.

Western Meadowlarks in flocks numbering up to 44 were present throughout the season in *Tunica*, MS (JRW, m.ob.). Single imm. Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a rare winter species in Louisiana, appeared in *Cameron* and *St. John* 18 (DLD, SWC) & 31 Dec (MW), respectively. Five hundred Great-tailed Grackles in *Benton*, AR, 5 Feb (KN, LN) represented a state maximum; this species is certainly increasing its population level and possibly expanding its range. Baltimore Orioles were present in five Louisiana parishes and Bullock's in two. Eight Red Crossbills were counted in Pope, AR, 19 Dec (LA).

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December was mild across the south of the region (Calgary experienced a December record of 20° C on the 27th!), and precipitation was light until late in the month. January was somewhat more normal, but February once again was relatively balmy. Northern areas were both colder and more snowy than the south. The final vestiges of snow in southern Manitoba disappeared during the last few days of the period, when strong southerly winds pushed the mercury to well above freezing. Early migrants, such as Canada Goose, Bald Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Killdeer, Short-eared Owl, Mountain Bluebird, American Tree Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark arrived in Manitoba, some of them two to three weeks ahead of schedule. With a few exceptions, records solely from Christmas Bird Counts are not included herein.

We dedicate this report to the memory of Bernie Gollop, former Prairie Provinces Regional Editor, who passed away suddenly on 26 May 2000. His contributions to natural history will be missed.

Abbreviations: CBC (*Christmas Bird Count*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB*).

GREBES THROUGH DOVES

An Eared Grebe at L. McGregor, AB, 1 Dec (J&MMc) and a W. Grebe at Wabamun L., AB, 9 Jan (RP) were late. A lingering Am. White Pelican at Medicine Hat, AB, was found dead 16 Dec (DBo); the latest Double-crested Cormorant was at Wabamun L. 9 Jan (RP). Twenty-six species of waterfowl were reported in Alberta, among them a white-morph Ross's Goose at Calgary (BR) and a blue-morph at Tyrrell L., both 3 Dec (D&TD). Canada Geese crossed the border regionwide in the last week of Feb, one to two weeks early (CC, ACs et al.). An ice-bound Tundra Swan at Taber, AB, 4 Jan was surrounded by several eagles (LB). Also of note were four Gadwall at Rafferty Res., SK, 5 Dec (GW), a N. Pintail at O.H.M., MB, 28 Jan (KG), four Green-winged Teal at Plum Cr., MB, 14 Dec (CC), plus a single at O.H.M. 28 Jan (KG). A Greater Scaup in Saskatoon, SK, 8–9 Jan provided probably the first mid-winter sighting in the city (WG, MW). Lone White-winged Scoters lingered at L. McGregor 1 Dec (J&MMc) and at Glenmore Res., AB, 5 Dec (JP). There were four Ruddy Duck reports in Alberta and three Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at Grand Beach, MB, 12 Dec (RK).

Bald Eagle migration lasted well into winter, e.g., 202 passed Sheep River Valley, AB, 2–18 Dec (RD, WS, RWe). An unprecedented number wintered in se. Manitoba, especially at a poultry farm near Whitemouth, where 27 were tallied 8 Jan (G,P,&SGf et al.). Three early migrants were at St. Adolphe, MB, 28 Feb (ACs). Northern Harriers usually depart s. Manitoba by early Nov, so a tally of ten at O.H.M. 11 Dec was exceptional (RK). A few wintered at Pierson, MB (RWa), as did several in s. Alberta (m.ob.). Similarly, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks are normally rare in winter, but Alberta had six of the former and Manitoba and Saskatchewan had three each, while there were five Cooper's in Alberta, three in Manitoba, and one in Saskatchewan. Rough-legged Hawks lingered, with counts of 34 at O.H.M. 5 Dec (RK) and 13 between Sidewood and Piapot, SK, 18 Jan (WH) being notable. Earliest Manitoban migrants were a single near Spruce Woods 26 Feb (AW) and nine at St. Adolphe 28 Feb (ACs). Two wintering imm. Golden Eagles hunted together at Windygates, MB, 6 Feb (RK). Eighteen migrants at the Mt. Lorette hawkwatch 29 Feb set a new record for the month (*fide* PS). A white Gyrfalcon near Randolph, MB, mid-Jan and again late Feb attracted much attention (WP, DF, ACs et al.).

Two Am. Coots at Plum Cr. 14 Dec were late (CC), while a Killdeer near Mt. Lorette 21 Feb was probably an early arrival (*fide* PS). A Com. Snipe at Calgary, 8 Dec was tardy (PB). A **jaeger** at Grand Beach 4 Dec was the first of any kind in winter in Manitoba (DBy et al.). Late gulls included a Ring-billed at Taber L. 31 Dec (LB), a California near Raymond, AB, 15 Dec (LB), and an incredibly hardy Glaucous at Churchill, MB, 14 Jan (BC)! One of two **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Regina, SK, and both birds in Weyburn, SK, first reported in fall, survived the period (I&AT, JW et al.; *fide* BL). A *Streptopelia* dove photographed in Winnipeg 7 Jan (AP) may have been Manitoba's first of this species.

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

Amazingly, three **Barn Owl** specimens were turned in to the Provincial Museum in Alberta and apparently a fourth bird was videotaped. One was found 17 Jan near Langdon (AB, ph. TK); we have no details on the others. These records are the first confirmed ones in the province. It was not a big Snowy Owl winter, but N. Hawk Owls were plentiful in n. Alberta, where 20 were in the High Level-La Crete area 7–9 Jan (*fide* LT). There were 35+ reports in Manitoba (J&PDu banded 10), and in Saskatchewan six ventured s. of the Mixed Wood/Boreal Forest region (TH, SS et al.). Only n. Alberta had high numbers of Great Gray Owls: 61 were at High Level-La Crete 7–9 Jan, including 40 spotted in one day (*fide* LT). Two Long-eared Owls on the Lyleton, MB, CBC 30 Dec (*fide* KD) were rare in winter.

An imm. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** survived the winter at Claresholm, AB, (J&RAt, J&MMc). Out-of-range woodpeckers included a Three-toed at Ranger L. Conifer Plantation, near Biggar, SK, 21 Feb (R&GW), a Black-backed at the same location 14 and 21 Feb (R&GW), and a Black-backed at Police Point Park, Medicine Hat, 6 Feb (BV). Northern Shrikes were prominent in ne. Manitoba, where 35+ were reported, with counts of up to four in a day (m.ob.). A Black-billed Magpie in Churchill since last summer was still there 26 Jan (BC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly plentiful in s. Manitoba (CC) and s. Saskatchewan (*fide* BL). A Rock Wren at Lethbridge, 7–10 Jan was a first for winter in Alberta (G&PGe), as was a Winter Wren on the Fort Walsh CBC, 18 Dec, for Saskatchewan (GW).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

As there are no overwintering records for Mt. Bluebird in Alberta, a bird at Caroline 2 Feb was believed to be a very early migrant (DBr). A Townsend's Solitaire remained at Portage Cr., MB, until at least 13 Dec (TO et al.) and another visited Landmark, MB, 28 Dec (FG). A Hermit Thrush on the Thompson, MB, CBC 18 Dec was outstanding (*fide* WJ). A flock of 50 Am. Robins in Calgary 4 Jan (G. Yaki) had escaped detection on the CBC. Lone Brown Thrashers wintered at St. Albert and Exshaw, AB, (*fide* PDe, J&MMc). Bohemian Waxwing numbers varied. Alberta had some high CBC counts, there were good numbers around Minnedosa, MB (CC), and 500+ were at Yorkton, SK, 12 Feb (B&JAn), but elsewhere few were noted.

Providing first winter records for the Region were single male **Black-throated Blue Warblers** at Medicine Hat, found dead 3 Jan (J&LMa, m.ob.), and at Calgary, last seen 6 Jan (AH, LH, ph. TK), and single **Ovenbirds** at Estevan, SK, 5 Dec (G&SW et al.), at a Calgary conservatory 4–8 Dec (JMl et al.), and at St. Albert, AB, through winter, surviving on mealworms (*fide* SGo). A Spotted Towhee visited a Hartell, AB, feeder Oct–5 Feb (A. Moon, J&MMc, ph.). A Swamp Sparrow lingered to 4 Dec at Banff, AB (J&MMc). An Am. Tree Sparrow arrived at St. Adolphe 29 Feb, a good two weeks ahead of schedule (ACs). Two Song Sparrows were present in Calgary 6–16 Jan (HG, ACn). Undocumented N. Cardinals were reported in Medicine Hat 30 Jan (BV) and at Rocky Mt. House, AB, 15 Feb (2 birds, GT); Manitoba had five across the south (m.ob.). There were eight W. Meadowlark reports from the Calgary area vs. the usual one or two (*fide* TK), and the first migrants reached Medicine Hat 29 Feb (BS, PH). A Yellow-headed Blackbird near Old Wives L., SK, 26 Feb wintered locally (YS). A **Brambling** near Prince Albert 30 Dec–2 Jan was perhaps the 4th for Saskatchewan (M&HB). Pine Grosbeaks, like Evening Grosbeaks, are becoming a thing of the past in cities across the s. of the region as rural feeding stations seem to intercept them (CC, BL et al.). In contrast, House Finches continue their march across the Prairies, with flocks of up to 20 noted in Regina (BL). Crossbills were scarce everywhere, except for White-wingeds in n. Alberta. Redpolls were common from w. Manitoba westward. They had a "great winter" in the Minnedosa area (CC) and were common in the Brandon Hills, MB (T&RWi), and in Alberta (TK). Between 5 Jan and 19 Feb, Mary Houston banded 1090 Common and 9 Hoary Redpolls in Saskatoon, with a recapture rate of <15 %. Pine Siskin numbers were fair in s. Alberta, scarce to absent elsewhere.

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This Barn Owl, found dead at a home near Langdon 17 Jan 2000, was the first of its species to be documented in Alberta. Photograph by Terry Korolyk.

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As noted by Palmer in South Dakota, the season might have been more appropriately called the late fall/early spring report. It was the third consecutive mild winter, and very little snow fell anywhere in the region. The snow that did come melted almost immediately. Only five inches of snow was recorded in northeastern South Dakota, and on nine days in February the temperature exceeded 50°. Only nine inches of snow fell at Mayville, North Dakota, and the average temperature for February was 10 degrees above average at Fargo. Grand Forks recorded its highest-ever temperature for the month of February: 67° on the 22nd.

There was an abundance of open water up to the CBCs, and Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota, froze on the record-late date of 16 January. The lake at Fort Peck, Montana, finally froze in mid-February, but opened up again three weeks later. Lake Bowdoin froze 10 December, a month later than average. Huge numbers of waterfowl wintered in the Pierre, South Dakota, area.

Many species, particularly waterbirds, lingered late and returned early. So many, in fact, that numerous late and early records could not be included in the report due to space limitations. Notable records included Painted Bunting in Montana, Eurasian Collared-Doves in North Dakota, and White Ibis, Iceland Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull in South Dakota.

Observations marked with a † are subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL

Two W. Grebes in *Mercer*, ND, 8 Jan provided the second January record for the state (REM). In South Dakota, at least two W. Grebes spent the season in *Hughes*, where wintering is unusual (RDO). Among the nine Double-crested Cormorant reports was an individual that wintered at Fort Peck, MT, a first for the area (CC). Four Cattle Egrets in *Sargent* 13 Dec were the latest on record for North Dakota (DK). A **White Ibis** in *Charles Mix*, SD, 10 Dec furnished the fifth state record and a first in winter (WW†). The first winter records for White-faced Ibis were also tallied in the Dakotas, with the species still in Brown, SD, 1–14 Dec (SLS), two in *Sargent*, ND, 2 Dec (DB, RC), and a single in *Sargent* 17 Dec (DK).

Tundra Swans lingered in good numbers, with 150 in *Grand Forks*, ND, 4 Dec (EEF), and 242 in *Brown*, SD, 14 Dec (SLS). Six Tundra Swans were still at Freezeout, MT, in January (MS), and seven individuals at Fort Peck 21 Feb were very early (CC). A Whooper Swan with a clipped toe was picked up alive in Foster, ND, 27 Jan (PRS).

A new high for North Dakota CBCs, 710 Com. Goldeneyes were tallied at Garrison Dam 18 December. Casual in the Pierre area, two Barrow's Goldeneye were in *Hughes*, SD, 12 Dec (CM).

EAGLES THROUGH KILLDEER

Bald Eagles were unusually widespread in Montana and North Dakota. Noted on 12 CBCs in North Dakota, the total of 43 was a new high for the state. Northern Harrier numbers were the highest in many years. The total of 33 on 18 CBC counts in North Dakota was a new high (the species is not always recorded on the state's CBCs), rivaled only by the previous high of 11 birds on six counts in 1962. In Montana, the species was noted as abundant on the three CBCs in the Malta area (DP), and several wintering in the Fort Peck area were unusual (CC). Harris recorded the species three times in January in ne. South Dakota, his first in 34 years (BKH). Eight Cooper's Hawk reports in North Dakota was an unusually high number for a species that rarely winters in the state, and one was noted in January near Malta, MT, for the second consecutive year (DP).

A Red-shouldered Hawk first noted 29 Jan in Day, SD, remained through the period (RFS, JSP†), furnishing a 4th winter record for the state. Red-tailed Hawks were unusually common in North Dakota, with 27 on seven CBCs for a new high. A Ferruginous Hawk in *Stutsman*, ND, the week of 20 Feb was the earliest recorded for the state and the first February record (*fide* LI†). Rough-legged Hawks were also present in large numbers. Reporters in much of the Region noted the highest numbers they had ever seen in winter. All of the regular falcon species were noted in normal or higher than usual numbers. One to three Gyrfalcons per day were noted in the Pierre, SD, area (m.ob.), and six reports were tallied in Montana and two in North Dakota.

The Gray Partridge total of 72 from 18 CBCs in North Dakota was the lowest since 1952, when only five counts were run. At Medicine Lake, MT, the species was noted as increasing from the lows of past years. Wild Turkeys continue their meteoric rise and are now common in some areas of n. North Dakota. Seven Killdeer in *Minnehaha*, SD, 4 Dec was a large number for so late (RFS, JSP); early migrants of the species were widespread in S. Dakota by late Feb.

GULLS THROUGH LARKS

Late lingering gulls were everywhere. A species that rarely winters in the Region, Bonaparte's Gulls were in *Charles Mix*, SD, 12 Dec–3 Feb (RM). Four Ring-billed Gulls remained in Fargo, ND, until 3 Dec, the latest for the area by 12 days (GEN). The 600 Ring-billeds on the Garrison Dam, ND, CBC 18 Dec was a new high there, with the old high only 15 (DS). Herring and Thayer's Gulls remained at Garrison Dam, ND, until 15 Jan (REM), the latest on record. Extremely late away from the Missouri R., two Herring Gulls were in *Perkins*, SD, 16 Dec (DCG). A first-winter Iceland Gull at Garrison Dam, ND, 11 Dec–15 Jan furnished the state's 13th record (REM†). Another **Iceland Gull** in *Yankton* 18–30 Dec provided only the 2nd South Dakota record (DS†). South Dakota's third **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was documented in *Yankton* 26–27 Feb (RFS, JSP†).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** noted 4

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Dec in Grand Forks (AB, DOL†) and two in Minot 12 Dec (NS, REM†) provided the 3rd and 4th North Dakota records. The species was subsequently recorded on the CBCs in both cities, the first CBC records for the state. South Dakota's 8th record was that of a single in *Clay* 23 Dec (BH†). Snowy Owls were present in relatively small numbers this year. Seldom reported in the Region, a N. Pygmy-Owl was found 29 Dec near Choteau, MT, and remained for several weeks (JN). Long-eared Owls were present in unusually large numbers, with a peak of 10 on the Pierre CBC. Nine birds were noted in North Dakota in Dec and six were tallied in Montana. Short-eared Owls were also present in large numbers in the Dakotas. A N. Saw-whet Owl spent the winter at Pierre (RDO).

Two Belted Kingfishers were noted 17 Dec on the Jamestown, ND, CBC; one remained through the winter, providing a 4th wintering record for the state (SM, HM, LI). Another was unexpected on Nelson Res., MT, 7 Jan (DP). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers 7 Dec in *Charles Mix* (RM) and 12 Dec–30 Jan in *Yankton*, SD (SVS), furnished the 6th and 7th winter records for South Dakota. A Loggerhead Shrike 22 Feb in *Kidder*, ND, furnished the first ND February record (NB†). Despite the open winter, Horned Larks were not present in unusual numbers. A Rock Wren 8 Feb in *Lawrence*, SD, provided only the second winter record for the state (RAS).

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH REDPOLLS

Four E. Bluebirds tallied on the Bismarck, ND, CBC 27 Dec provided the second CBC record for the state, with the first only last year. Early migrants were at Medicine L., MT, 28 Feb (RS), and s. of Bismarck in late Feb (DA). A Hermit Thrush in Fargo 18 Dec furnished the 5th CBC record for North Dakota. Good numbers of Am. Robins wintered in the region. Casual in winter, a N. Mockingbird was present in Jamestown, ND, from mid-Dec to early Feb (LI). Bohemian Waxwings were almost absent, but Cedar Waxwings were present in impressive numbers; 1298 on North Dakota CBCs was a new high. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in New Town, ND, 2–15 Dec was photographed for a 3rd winter record for the state (RS†). Casual in South Dakota in winter, Yellow-rumpeds were in Meade 29–30 Jan (RAS, JAA, REP) and in *Hughes* 2 Jan (KM).

A **Painted Bunting** in Billings, MT, 11–17 Dec provided the first record for the region (AS, HC†). Five Song Sparrows on the Tewaukan, ND, CBC 17 Dec was an unusually high count. Four White-crowned Sparrow reports from the Dakotas was unusual; generally none are reported. Lapland Longspurs wintered in large numbers in North Dakota, with a new peak of 35,000 in *McLean* 1 Jan (REM). Red-winged Blackbirds and W. Meadowlarks were recorded in unusual numbers this winter, and W. Meadowlarks were migrating early into North Dakota by late Feb. The first winter records for South Dakota, 18 Great-tailed Grackles were in *Sanborn* 4 Feb (RGR†); a single was in *Charles Mix* 26 Feb (RFS, JSP†). Casual in winter in the Dakotas, Brown-headed Cowbirds were in *Stark*, ND, 8 Jan (JH), in *Bon Homme*, SD, 13 Jan (SVS), and in *Hanson*, SD, 27 Feb (RGR). The only Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch report was from Zortman, MT, where 37 were seen 20 Dec (DP, TP). It was a good season for Purple Finches, with 232 on North Dakota CBCs. In South Dakota, Tallman banded more than in any other year at Aberdeen. No Red Crossbills were reported away from Ponderosa Pine areas, and only four reports of White-winged Crossbills were received, all of single birds. Common Redpolls were present in good numbers in Montana and North Dakota, with a few Hoaries noted in the flocks.

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southern great plains

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The exceptionally warm winter weather this season made it difficult to distinguish the Southern Great Plains Region from the Gulf States or Texas. The Nebraska report resembled Oklahoma's in a more typical year of a decade past, with species such as American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Northern Shoveler becoming "expected." Individuals of many species that might winter a little farther north did, and didn't necessarily "sign" their death warrants. At the same time, it was also quite a season for rarities. In addition to the more friendly climate, there was also the factor of birding for the first time in our current millennium that probably spurred birders to find these laggards and displaced vagrants. A humbly condensed summary follows.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS*); McConaughy (*L. McConaughy, Keith, NE*); L. Ogallala (*L. Ogallala, Keith, NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Red-throated Loon was discovered in *Oklahoma* 7 Jan (JAG). A Pac. Loon, present since 31 Oct, was still being observed in *Reno*, KS, through 2 Feb (CG). An ad. and an imm. Com. Loon apparently wintered at McConaughy (WRS et al.), providing only the 4th mid-winter report in Nebraska (*fide* WRS). They were widespread in Oklahoma.

A Red-necked Grebe, certainly a rare migrant, was noted 3 Dec in Tulsa (JWA), while three (two ad., one imm.) wintered at L. Ogallala and McConaughy (SJD, BFH), a first for Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Among W. Grebes overwintering at McConaughy were seven Clark's present to at least 28 Jan (SJD). One Clark's was at *Scotts Bluff*, NE, 2 Dec (SJD). At least one of 41 Double-crested Cormorants noted in *Harlan*, NE, 17 Dec (*fide* JGJ) made it through the winter; another was in *Douglas*, NE, 29 Jan (JGJ).

Among ardeids with northern inclinations were two Great Egrets 24 Feb in Tulsa (JWA) and one 26 Feb in *Leavenworth*, KS (JS). An injured Green Heron survived to at least 27 Jan in *Cleveland*, OK (JAG). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Cheyenne Bottoms 3 Jan (MG). Even more unexpected were White-faced Ibises at Quivira 18 Dec (BG, MR), *McCurtain*, OK, 19 Dec (BH), Cheyenne Bottoms 3 Jan (MG), and *Kingfisher*, OK, 29 Feb (JWA). Up to four ibises identified simply as *Plegadis* sp. were noted in *McCurtain*, OK 8 & 14 Dec (DA, BH). A Turkey Vulture in *Buffalo*, NE, 27 Feb (LB) was exceptionally early.

Geese were on the move by mid-February. About 50 Greater White-fronted Geese arrived by 13 Feb in *Phelps*, NE (LR, RH). About 20,000 Snow Geese were moving over *Buffalo*, NE, 20 Feb (LR, RH); 4,000 were over *Lancaster*, NE, 22 Feb (SH); and 1,500 were in *Phelps*, NE, 13 Feb (LR, RH). Ross's Geese were more sparsely reported, with 14 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, 4 Dec (SJD); 51 in *Sequoyah*, OK 5 Dec (SB); 50 in *Trego*, KS, 16 Dec (SS); 55+ in *Pawnee*, KS, 27 Dec (SS); and six 18 Jan in *McCurtain*, OK (BH). A blue-morph Ross's was identified in *Reno*, KS, 24 Dec (CG).

Trumpeter Swan observations are becoming more commonplace in the Region, with 37 birds reported from Nebraska (*fide* WRS) and 19 from Kansas (LM). Some collared birds originated from Minnesota. Two Trumpeters were noted s. to *Osage*, OK, 2 Jan (*fide* DWo). Swan identification became an issue when 13 swans 18 Dec in Tulsa were considered *Cygnus* sp. (BGa, MA, JM). Among Tundra Swans were two noted in *Mitchell*, KS, 10 Dec (KDWP), one in *Cimarron*, OK, 1 Jan (JSt), one imm. in *Knox*, NE, 30 Jan (MB), six in *Rush*, KS, 6 Feb (DiS, SS, StS), and three at Quivira 20–26 Feb (CG).

There was a small flood of Am. Black Ducks this season, with up to three in *Lancaster*, NE (JB, JSu), five reported from Kansas (*fide* LM), and from as far s. as *Comanche*, OK, 7 Jan (JAG) and *Wagoner*, OK, 24 Jan (JWA). Exceptional was a imm. male Blue-winged Teal in *Keith*, NE, 29 Jan (SJD), only the 2nd documented in winter for Nebraska. "Oh, wow" describes Nebraska's first **Tufted Duck**, which wintered at Keystone L., *Keith*, NE (SJD, m.ob). When discovered 3 Dec, it had an obvious tuft, which later disappeared but which became prominent again by 5 Feb (SJD). Greater Scaup also wintered in excellent numbers at Keystone L., where as many as 74 were present (SJD). About 40 others were reported in the Region (*fide* WRS, LM, JWA).

Scoters are sought after in the Region. Four Surfs were at *Keith*, NE, 4 Dec (SJD), with one still present 20 Jan (SJD, DCE, JSU). Others were noted at Cheyenne Bottoms 3 Dec (LH) and *Sedgwick*, KS, 14 Jan (PJ). White-wingeds were reported from *Keith*, NE, 16 Dec (SJD), *Harlan*, NE, 19 Dec (GH, WH), and *Harper*, OK 5 Feb (G&MK). A female and an imm. male Black Scoter were in *Keith*, NE, 2 Dec–15 Jan (SJD, WRS). Among 15 Long-tailed Ducks observed in the Region, only one made it as far s. as Oklahoma, on 26 Dec in *Pawnee* (JWA). Five Barrow's Goldeneye, 3 males and 2 females, were in *Keith*, NE, 5 Feb (SJD), a record count for the Region. Immature male Barrow's were noted in *Sedgwick*, KS, 9 Feb (PJ et al.) and *Lyon*, KS, 12 Feb (MS). One has to take note of the 225 Hooded Mergansers at *Trego*, KS, 16 Dec (SS). The poor ice conditions allowed 32,000 Com. Mergansers to accumulate in *Harlan*, NE, 22 Jan (JGJ). Red-breasted Mergansers have become too commonplace to report individually.

RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS

Reports of N. Goshawk were limited, with singles in *Douglas*, KS, 18 Dec (GP) and *Buffalo*, NE, 24 Jan (GL). Red-shouldered Hawks continue to inch westward, with one in *Sedgwick*, KS, 7 Jan (CG) and another in *Saunders*, NE, 23 Jan (TH). Occasional Golden Eagles can be found across the Region to the very se. corner; one was in *McCurtain*, OK, 29 Dec (DA). Merlins continued their upward trend and were widely reported this season.

Virginia Rails have been found to winter locally n. to Nebraska. Warm springs and seeps in the North Platte Valley of Nebraska contained 20 in *Keith*, five in *Morrill*, and seven in *Scotts Bluff* 20 Feb (SJD). Among the Virginias in *Cleveland*, OK, were up to six Soras 15–29 Jan (JAG). A sign of the season were the 1,500–2,000 Sandhill Cranes in *Barber*, KS, 26 Dec (CG). By 7 Feb, at least 5,000 were at Quivira (CG), with that many in *Buffalo*, NE, by 26 Feb (JJ, LB). A Whooping Crane at Cheyenne Bottoms 3 Dec–1 Jan (LH, MR, TC) was avoiding some recent tradition (the entire world population has wintered along the central Texas coast for decades now).

Killdeer first arrived 1 Feb at *Dodge*, NE (DP) and *Harlan*, NE (GH, WH). At least four Greater Yellowlegs wintered n. to *Keith*, NE 15 Jan (SJD). The high count of 25 in *Sumner*, *Stafford*, and *Barton*, KS, 26 Feb (CG, THi) probably included migrants. A Willet 18 Dec at Quivira (BG, MR, SF, JL) has to be considered a bizarre occurrence. A Spotted Sandpiper was in *McCurtain*, OK, 30 Dec (BC, MD). Least Sandpipers wintered north to *Douglas*, KS, where four were noted 4–18 Dec (GP, DS). Occasionally wintering, Dunlins were noted in *McCurtain*, OK, 16 & 23 Jan (DA) and in *Tillman*, OK, 18 Jan (JSt). Exceptionally early migrants were two Baird's Sandpipers, one Pectoral Sandpiper, and six Long-billed Dowitchers 28 Feb in *Kingfisher*, OK, (JWA). At least four Com. Snipe wintered in *Keith*, NE (SJD).

How about a dark-morph juvenile **Pomarine Jaeger** at McConaughy 3 Dec (SJD), only the 8th for Nebraska? A jaeger species was noted in *Jefferson*, KS, 4 Dec (RR). And what would a winter be without gulls: 15 (!!) species, pending a few reviews by records committees. A Franklin's Gull in *Harlan*, NE, 17 Dec (JGJ, SJD) was still present 22 & 25 Jan (JGJ, GH, WH). Other Franklin's were noted in *Douglas*, KS, 8 Jan (MM) and *Sedgwick*, KS, 5 Feb (CG, m.ob.). An ad. Little Gull was photographed in Tulsa 19 Dec (SM). An ad. **Mew Gull** was in *Lincoln*, NE, 16 Dec (SJD). As many as 41 California Gulls wintered at McConaughy (SJD, m.ob.). Up to eight Californias were reported from Kansas (*fide* LM). An excellent count of 800 Herring Gulls was made in *Harlan*, NE, 22 Jan (JGJ). Thayer's Gulls are now seemingly regular during winter, with 17 of several year classes reported from Nebraska; five from Kansas included an adult in *Sedgwick* 23 Jan (PJ). Two **Iceland Gulls** were reported, one in third-basic plumage in *Knox*, NE, 19 Dec (DLS) and one possible first-winter bird in *Sedgwick*, KS, 24 Jan–18 Feb (PJ, CG, m.ob). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an ad. 15 Dec in *Oklahoma* (JWA, JAG), second and third basic-plumaged birds in *Gosper/Dawson*, NE, 1 & 22 Jan (JGJ) and 30 Jan (LR, RH), an adult in *Sedgwick*, KS, 17 Jan–10 Feb (CG), and one in *Knox*, NE, 26 Feb (JSP). An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull**, pending review, was photographed in *Harlan*, NE, 22 Jan (JGJ). About 10 Glaucous Gulls were reported from Nebraska (*fide* WRS), seven from Kansas (*fide* LM), and two from Oklahoma. A possible first-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull** reported from *Sedgwick*, KS, 12 Feb (DW, PJ) will require review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee. A third-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** documented at Cheyenne Bottoms 26 Dec–8 Feb (GP) is also pending review. And, our "Where's-Waldo" Black-legged Kittiwake appeared in *Harlan*, NE, 17–18 Dec (SJD et al.), an adult, no less, while another adult was seen at McConaughy 29 Jan (SJD). Although none were reported for Nebraska or Kansas, Forster's Terns wintered in at least five Oklahoma counties (*fide* JWA) west to *Oklahoma* (JAG).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves, perhaps soon-to-be-ubiquitous, were found at three new locations in Nebraska this winter—*Keith*, *Dakota*, and *Cass*—for a total of nine Nebraska locations to date (*fide* WRS). They were noted in five Kansas counties, including 18 birds in Stevens 29 Jan (MM, GP) and at least one new location in Oklahoma, *Jackson* (JSt). A White-winged Dove was found in *Sedgwick*, KS, 3–19 Feb. (D&MC, m.ob). Inca Doves also continue to increase in number and locations, with reports of 1–6 birds from four Kansas locations (*fide* LM), and 1–7 from seven Oklahoma locations (*fide* JWA). Certainly among the surprises for the season were the four **Anna's Hummingbirds**, including an ad. female in *Saline*, KS, 13–25 Jan (DR), an ad. female in *Johnson*, KS, 7 Feb (CH), an ad. male 22–23 Dec in Tulsa (SW, JWA), and im. male 12–13 Feb, also in Tulsa (L&RN, JWA). These records equal the previous total for the Region. A Rufous Hummingbird graced a feeding station in *Delaware*, OK, 15 Dec–3 Jan (EW). As many as 45 N. Shrikes were tallied in w. Nebraska for the period (SJD), with 11 counted in se. Nebraska 17 Dec (*fide* JG); four were in Kansas (*fide* LM) and one 23 Dec in *Cimarron*, OK (JD, JO). Western Scrub-Jays ventured out on the plains to *Ford*, KS, 12 Dec (JD) and *Morton*, KS, 20 Jan (BP, CW). A Tree Swallow lingered to 18 Dec in *Riley*, KS (TC, DB), while a Purple Martin appeared 21 Feb in *McCurtain*, OK (BH).

The edges of winter ranges are defined by the daring that submit to the risk of succumbing. If the elements show favor, and the preference of the birds is founded in their double helices, so range extensions occur. This winter went to the daring. House Wrens occurred in *Morton*, KS, 31 Dec (SP et al.) and *Barber*, KS, 3 Jan (PJ et al.). Winter Wrens braved the potential trials of McConaughy (SJD), with two in *Garden*, NE, 19 & 26 Feb (SJD). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet persisted in *Lancaster*, NE, to at least 30 Dec (LE). A Hermit Thrush wintered in *Keith*, NE (SJD, DCE), and another was in *Buffalo*, NE, 13 Feb (LB), among only a handful of winter records. A Gray Catbird in *Sioux*, NE, 3 Jan (SL) was only the second January record for Nebraska (*fide* WRS). Another was in *Johnson*, KS, 3–28 Jan (MC). A Brown Thrasher made it through the winter in *Douglas*, NE (JB); another at McConaughy 2 Jan (*fide* SJD) was not subsequently reported.

Winter warblers anyone? An Orange-crowned Warbler lasted to at least 18 Dec in *Lancaster*, NE (LE). Quite amazing were the N. Parulas reported, one an imm. male in *Keith*, NE, 4 Dec (ph. SJD), and another in *Cowley*, KS, 19 Dec (MT). Eighteen Yellow-rumped Warblers were still in *Harlan*, NE, 1 Jan (GH, WH). Also quite a surprise was an imm. male Cape May Warbler in *Douglas*, KS, 30–31 Jan (JC, PW). A Pine Warbler was documented in *Riley*, KS, 18 Dec (DR). Two to three Com. Yellowthroats kept a few rails company in *Cleveland*, OK, during January (JAG).

Among the half-hardy sparrows, a Lincoln's was observed in *Buffalo*, NE, 29–30 Jan (LR, RH). Almost never reported during winter, Henslow's Sparrows were observed in *Riley*, KS, 18 Dec (MS), with one unusual also for its westerly location in *Barber*, KS, 26 Dec (CG). A Harris's Sparrow was at a Scottsbluff, NE, feeder throughout the period (*fide* AK), with several in *Sioux*, NE (SL). Far from Venezuela was a male Dickcissel in *Harlan*, OK, 1 Jan (GH, WH). A big surprise was the presence of a Gray-headed Junco in *Douglas*, NE, 16 Jan–14 Feb (PS). Snow Buntings managed their way s. only to *Pottawatomie*, KS, 24–30 Dec (DM, m.ob) and *Franklin*, KS, 31 Jan–6 Feb (JN, m.ob).

Among those lingering north were a male Yellow-headed Blackbird in *Scotts*

Bluff, NE, 4 Dec and again 20 Feb (SJD), with others in *Keith*, NE, 19 Feb (SJD). Rare westward was an ad. male Purple Finch in *Keith*, NE, 2 Jan (SJD), with a female in *Buffalo*, NE, 17 Jan (LR, RH). White-winged Crossbills were reported from *Burt*, NE, 5 Dec (JGJ), *Leavenworth*, KS, 15–28 Dec (GP, m.ob.), and *Morton*, KS, 31 Dec (SS). A Com. Redpoll was seen south in *Creek*, OK, 21 Jan (BGa).

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Observers tried to look for some silver lining around the edges of our "continuing saga of drought" (Sekula). The dry conditions forced raptors such as Red-tailed Hawks and Prairie Falcons to make foraging forays into urban Midland. Perhaps it was the lack of surface water in much of far west Texas (more so than usual) that prompted large concentrations of waterbirds at an oasis like Balmorhea and contributed to a memorable Christmas Bird Count there; the few other sizable west Texas water holes such as Imperial and Red Bluff Reservoirs were also hotspots. The record-low water levels of east Texas reservoirs prompted the winter occurrence of shorebirds and waders normally absent from that area. Longspurs in the northern Panhandle were principally confined to irrigated fields and sought moisture at leaky water wells or other precious local water sources. Only in our westernmost corner in El Paso was adequate rainfall reported; as well, deep south Texas (especially *Kenedy*) still had good freshwater levels as a fading reminder of Hurricane *Bret* last August. The lack of precipitation coupled with generally mild to warm temperatures were manifested in an unprecedented holdover of lingering migrant passerines throughout the length of the state as well as an early push of northbound waterbirds in mid-February.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee—Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). Anzalduas, Aransas, Bentsen, Big Bend, Caprock Canyons, Garner, Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Muleshoe, Palmetto, San Bernard, and Seminole Canyon are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Three Red-throated Loons were reported from L. Texoma late Dec through mid-Feb (WM et al); the species has been annual there for about a decade. A total of nine Pac. Loons were scattered across the state; the most interesting was one picked up on U.S. 90 between Alpine and Marfa in w. Texas and eventually released at Balmorhea S.P. (*fide* KB, MAd). A gathering of 79 Pied-billed Grebes on Greenbelt L., *Donley*, 10 Feb was the largest group ever reported in the Panhandle (KS); another big concentration was 175 on Lake O' The Pines, *Marion*, 3 Nov (HB). *Aechmophorus* grebes (and other waterbirds) rebounded at Balmorhea L. after being absent for several seasons following the planned fish kill in fall 1998 (KB). A symptom of the mild winter was the presence of large flocks of wintering Am. White Pelicans on several e. Texas reservoirs (e.g., ≤550 at Sam Rayburn Res.; DW, MW). Neotropic Cormorants pushed into e. Texas, a region with few prior records; there were reports from *Angelina*, *Gregg*, *Polk*, and *Smith*, including a first record for the Longview CBC. Seventy-eight Double-crested Cormorants in Lubbock through the winter was also a remarkable inland concentration (CSt). An Am. Bittern at Balmorhea S.P. 22 Jan+ was exceptional (TJ et al.). Sixty-six Great Egrets at L. Lonestar, *Morris*, 12 Jan must have been an impressive sight (DBro). Other unexpected wintering herons were a Little Blue in *Harrison*, 15 Dec (GLu, EdR), a Tricolored at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend, 27 Jan (BHe), and a Reddish Egret all winter at Balmorhea L. (ph. KB et al.), the latter providing a first Trans-Pecos winter record. White and *Plegadis* Ibises wintered in unprecedented numbers at inland loca-

tions in the e. half of Texas (m.ob.). Yet another indicator of lingering long-legged waders was a first winter record of Roseate Spoonbill in *Angelina* 12 Feb (NBi, LSm, GGu). The last Turkey Vulture to withdraw from the Trans-Pecos for the winter was one in Big Bend 13 Dec (BHe).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Of 4500 white geese at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, 8 Jan, the great majority were Ross's (EK et al.). A blue-morph Ross's was at L. Tawakoni, 20 Jan (MWh). Muscovy Ducks were hard to find on the Rio Grande this winter, but Gary Waggerman came upon 23 on the river in Starr, 6 Jan. A Cinnamon Teal at Sam Rayburn Res., 26–27 Feb, was only the fifth for e. Texas in 30 years (DW, MW, et al.). Cinnamons were extra-abundant in the Trans-Pecos, including a record concentration of over 100 at Balmorhea L. (m.ob.). At that location, all the regular-occurring *Aythya* sp. were in record numbers, as were Ruddy Ducks and Am. Coots. Interesting scoter records included a well-documented Black at L. Tawakoni 28 Dec–21 Feb (MWh, ph. DaH, KWh) and a male Surf at Balmorhea L. remaining from the fall through 28 Dec (m.ob.). A Long-tailed Duck was at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant*, 6–8 Dec (MR) and two more were at Galveston, 2 Jan (WRi). A flock of 450 Hooded Mergansers was quite a concentration on a small lake in Greenville, *Hunt*, during Jan–Feb (MWh). An 11 Jan Com. Merganser provided a first Cooper L. and *Delta* record (MWh).

Hook-billed Kites were reported through the season, with a peak count of four seen at Bentsen 27 Feb (GL, KE), including the dark-morph bird first reported a year ago. Another was at the Chihuahua Woods Preserve, *Hidalgo*, 7 Jan (TBr). Two imm. Bald Eagles were an interesting find at Grapevine Hills in Big Bend 22 Dec (PP). Somewhat unexpected was a Harris's Hawk at Eagle L., *Colorado*, 19 Feb (ML, MLa). A possible Roadside Hawk was reported during the period at Bentsen, but was inconclusively documented (to T.B.R.C.). There are but three accepted records of Roadside Hawk in the U.S., the most recent in 1982–1983, despite marginally documented reports every few years or so. By contrast, an ad. light-morph Swainson's Hawk was well-described at Anzalduas 9 Feb (KE). A Zone-tailed Hawk was a nice find in s. *Bexar* 7–25 Dec (*fide* GSc), as was another at Palmetto 14 Jan (LHo). A Ferruginous Hawk stayed in *Mason* in the Hill Country 29 Jan+ (BoF, DF). Five reports of Rough-legged Hawk were compiled away from the Panhandle from *Wichita* and *Denton* s. to *Brazos* and *Williamson*. There were also three Rough-leggeds reported on the U.T.C. (m.ob.). A Crested Caracara was unusual in the cen. Hill Country in *Edwards* 25 Jan (SWie). Two Aplomado Falcons from the Matagorda I. release program were found 17 Dec and 22 Jan at San Bernard, *Brazoria* (m.ob.). Three wintering Peregrines were reported in Trans-Pecos locales where the species normally withdraws for the season; another was in *Midland* 18 Dec (GG).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

We had two interesting reports of Sandhill Cranes in wooded ne. and e. Texas, where they are quite rare: three were over *Nacogdoches* 10 Dec (RaB) and four were over *Hopkins* 15 Dec (MWh). The Aransas/Wood Buffalo flock of Whooping Cranes increased to a record 188 birds (*fide* TSt), including a single stray in *Lynn* 29 Dec & 29 Jan (RLe) and the same or another 16 Feb in *Hall* (BaP). Unusual overwintering Black-bellied Plovers were at Balmorhea L. (MAd, KB) and Cooper L., *Delta* (MWh). A late Am. Golden-Plover was also at Cooper L. 17 Dec (MWh). Eleven Snowy Plovers were a nice group wintering at Imperial Res. (RMS, RW). The Granger L. area Mt. Plover flock peaked at 184 on 17 Jan (TFen); another flock of 40+ were at New Braunfels 29 Jan (BDo); up to 12 wintered in *Ector* (BLy, BLu). Low water levels in e. Texas reservoirs created good habitat for shorebirds where they are normally sparse. Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, and a Pectoral Sandpiper were all at Sam Rayburn Res. in late Feb (DW). An early influx of migrant Lesser Yellowlegs was detected 18–20 Feb in e. Texas and the Panhandle (m.ob.). Five Solitary Sandpipers on the cen. and upper coast areas (some on CBCs) were more than expected in late Dec; the species is normally confined to the lower coast at that season. Fennell re-ported an un-expected flock of 59 Long-billed Curlews wintering in the vicinity of Granger L., in Jan. A Marbled Godwit on the El Paso CBC furnished a first winter record for the Trans-Pecos (JPa et al.).

Another symptom of the early push of migrant shorebirds were some record dates for northbound Baird's Sandpipers: one was at Imperial Res. 17–28 Feb (JWS, RR, FR, RMS), probably providing the earliest report ever for Texas. Others showed up in s. and coastal Texas in late Feb (m.ob.). Twenty-seven Dunlins at L. Tawakoni in Jan–Feb were an unusual inland concentration (MWh). Long-billed Dowitchers were also part of that early influx of northbound shorebirds in late Feb; small numbers were reported in *Angelina*, *Potter*, and *Swisher* (m.ob.). An Am. Woodcock on a private ranch provided a first *Kenedy* record 8 Dec (ph. LDi); another was found at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend 24 Jan (DBu). A few Wilson's Phalaropes were discovered in January in the Corpus Christi area (A&MC), but even stranger were three birds found in *Lubbock* 18 Dec and 5 Feb (CSt, AF).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

A Parasitic Jaeger was a shocker at the Balmorhea CBC 18 Dec (MAd et al.); a small number of Parasitics and Pomarines were seen in more expected haunts along the coast in Jan. An alternate-plumaged Franklin's Gull was probably an early migrant at L. Somerville, *Burleson*, 26 Feb (CSh et al.). Three Little Gulls showed up in

In spite of populations just across the state lines of Oklahoma and New Mexico, the Black-billed Magpie rarely ventures into Texas. One discovered in Hansford 5 Dec 1999 provided only the third record for Texas. This photo was taken 7 Dec and as many as three birds were present through the winter. Photograph by Greg W. Lasley.

n.-cen. Texas: single ad. birds were at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas*, 14 Jan (ph. MWh), at Hagerman 17-18 Jan (ph. GCoo), and at White Rock L., 6–19 Feb (PBi, MAd, MWh, JPe).

A concentration of 600 Bonaparte's Gulls was at Sam Rayburn Res. 3 Feb (DW). A Mew Gull spent at least a few days at a landfill e. of San Antonio 22–24 Jan (ph. WS, J&BRi). Two California Gulls spent several weeks at Galveston's E. Beach in Dec–Jan (m.ob.); others were at Victoria 8 Feb (PH) and in *Dallas*, 13 Feb (GK). Darker-backed Herring-type gulls created a lot of study and discussion on the coast. Most interesting among them was a bird photographed 26 Feb–Mar apparently of the Vega subspecies, *L. a. vegae* of Siberia (ph. WS, MR et al.; see <http://www.martinreid.com/>). There are no prior confirmed reports of the subspecies for the contiguous U.S. At least 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported on the coast, including about 10 at the Brownsville dump (WS, BMc et al.). A Glaucous Gull at the Victoria dump 4 Feb provided a first county record (PH); another was at Galveston Dec–Jan (DPe, J & WRi). The imm. Black-legged Kittiwake reported in the fall at Imperial Res. was last seen 24 Dec (FR, RMS). An ad. kittiwake was discovered at Balmorhea L. about 4 Dec and remained to 15 Dec (ph. CSh, Mad), providing only the 4th record of an ad. in Texas. Curious inland winter records of Caspian Tern included one at Sam Rayburn Res. 2 Jan (DW), and four over College Station 26 Jan (ERa).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Adding to localities of the burgeoning Eur. Collared-Dove population were reports in Pecos (*Reeves*), Happy (*Swisher*), Nacogdoches (*Nacogdoches*), Leander (*Williamson*), Bishop (*Nueces*), Riviera (*Kleberg*), and additional reports from *Brazoria*, *Jefferson*, and *Colorado* among established sites. Two Inca Doves at Stratford 25 Dec provided a first *Sherman* record (MK). Up to three Com. Ground-Doves hung out all season at Balmorhea L., where they are unexpected (m.ob.). A single White-tipped Dove was on Blanco Cr. at the convergence of *Bee*, *Refugio*, and *Goliad*, 2 Feb, a northerly record for the cen. coast. An Elf Owl was found in Big Bend 10 Feb (JBo). A Burrowing Owl in *Hansford* 15 Jan (LSa et al.) was far n. of its expected winter range. On 12 Dec, a large "round-headed, dark-eyed" owl was flushed from salt cedars at Balmorhea L. (DO, KOB). While initially thought to be a Barred Owl, Spotted Owl might have been more likely to occur in that area at that season, altough either would be unprecedented there. Long-eared Owls at unexpected locations were found at Hueco Tanks (JSp) and at Big Bend (KH). The last lingering Com. Nighthawk was found over a shopping mall in Victoria 20 Dec (DMu).

Up to 330 White-throated Swifts were at Seminole Canyon 26 Dec, a large number for that location. The Broad-billed Hummingbird in El Paso from the fall report lingered until 24 Feb (JZ). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds returned to *Austin* 29 Feb (S&BB), a location where they had apparently been present for at least two years but not previously reported. A few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds occasionally winter on the U.T.C., but a female that overwintered in *Nacogdoches* (CEl) was banded at this same location the previous winter. Unprecedented for the Lubbock area were three species of hummingbirds together at one location, including a Black-chinned, a male Anna's, and Rufous during Jan–Feb (RE). It was a good winter for Anna's on the U.T.C. with multiple individuals in *Galveston*, *Chambers*, *Harris*, *Brazoria*, and *Liberty* (ph., m.ob.). Slightly inland from the U.T.C., another Anna's in *Washington* 6 Dec–12 Jan (GCol, LSt) provided only the 2nd Brazos Valley record. An Anna's Hummingbird nest found in El Paso during late Feb (Bhi) provided only the second state nesting record. This occurrence was well-documented with photos and videotape; by the end of the period two young were in the nest being attended by the female. Calliopes were reported in Houston 30 Dec (SP) and in Harlingen 10 Jan (MiR et al), the latter record perhaps the first for the L.R.G.V. At least three Broad-tailed Hummingbirds wintered in El Paso (*fide* BZ). An ad. Allen's Hummingbird was netted and photographed in the hand in Houston 25–27 Feb (FC), providing about the 10th well-documented state record. Another possible Allen's was at Freeport late Dec–early Feb, but was not captured.

There were several interesting kingfisher records, including single Ringed Kingfishers at Garner 28 Dec (CRo) and in *Llano* 21 Dec (RK, MCa, AF) and a Green Kingfisher at San Angelo 5 Feb (GCr). Notable were three Acorn Woodpeckers in *Midland* 13–23 Jan (AT). A far-ranging Red-naped Sapsucker was videotaped in *Brazoria* 19 Dec (R&MB, MCr, RWe) for only the 2nd U.T.C. record. Another spent the winter at Bentsen. Williamson's Sapsuckers were regularly encountered in the Davis Mts. during the period, while one was in Big Bend 31 Dec (CMe).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

There are only two or three previous records of *Empidonax* flycatchers in the Panhandle during winter, none in January. On the warm afternoon of 21 Jan Seyffert encountered a "*whit*-ing" unidentified *Empidonax* at Palo Duro. Slightly n. of their normal winter range were single Vermilion Flycatchers in *Bell* 18 Dec (RPi) and Segovia, *Kimble*, 9 Dec–7 Feb (AL). A well-described Great Crested Flycatcher was in McAllen 20 January (LR, HP, KM); this species is extremely rare in winter, but there are at least two old specimen records. Far-flung Great Kiskadees continue to amaze us. One at Hagerman from the fall report remained into Feb (ph., m.ob.), while two were discovered in Temple 18 Dec–1 Jan (P&JT, Rpi) and two more were at Seadrift, *Calhoun*, 2 Jan (BF). Tropical Kingbirds seem to be continually expanding their range in s. Texas. In addition to the well-known localities for this species, others were found in four new *Hidalgo* locations (TBr, RPi, KE, et al) as well as another in *Kenedy* 8 Jan (BF) for a new county record. Many Couch's Kingbirds typically withdraw into Mexico during the winter. Such was not the case this season, as the species remained common through the period in the L.R.G.V. Couch's were also noted up the coast to the U.T.C. and one was in *Washington* 26 Jan–27 Feb for a first county record (DV). Extremely early was an E. Kingbird in *Burleson* 29 Feb (CL); the earliest Texas record is 23 Feb. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was well-described from a private ranch in *San Patricio* 18 Dec (LB), providing about the 12th record for Texas. A male Rose-throated Becard reappeared at Anzalduas during Feb, probably one of the same birds present there last year (m.ob.). Historically, White-eyed Vireos did not winter regularly in the Central Brazos Valley; however, during the past few winters

SA A banded ad. **Black-headed Gull** returned to *Tarrant* for its 3rd winter, 24 Dec–18 Feb (MR, m.ob.). After two years of trying, Reid was finally able to read the band number; correspondence confirmed that it had been banded as a young bird out of the nest 100 km n. of Helsinki, Finland, in 1996. This gull is the first known banded Finnish bird of *any species* in the United States (*fide* MR).

Not surprisingly, Snow Buntings seldom wander as far south as Texas. The state's fifth was this first-winter male photographed the first day of its 26–29 Dec visit to Lake Tawakoni, Rains. Photograph by Matt White.

Frenz and others have noted that large numbers spend the winter there and many are singing on territory by late Feb. A Bell's Vireo at Seadrift 15 Jan represented a rare winter record (PH). We are still trying to sort out the winter distribution of "Solitary" Vireos in Texas. This season we received reports of single Plumbeous Vireos from El Paso 11 Dec (JZ, MSc), *Lubbock* 5 Jan (PKi, BPh), *Midland* 6 Feb (m.ob.), and San Antonio 7 Feb (CCu). Cassin's Vireos were reported by several knowledgeable observers on as many as six CBCs in the e. half of Texas and on the U.T.C. We continue to urge extreme caution in the identification of Cassin's Vireo in Texas away from their expected migrant path through the Trans-Pecos, because dull female Blue-headeds can appear quite "Cassin's-like". A Hutton's Vireo at Davis Mts. SP, 17 Dec was unexpected at that elevation (KB). Another extreme winter rarity was a Warbling Vireo at Midland 6 Feb (m.ob.); there are no well-documented winter records for Texas, although a number of sight reports exist.

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS

Green Jays seemed to move around more than usual this season, including 26 in Beeville through the period (JJ), five in Victoria 17 Jan (BF), and one in San Antonio 26 Dec–16 Jan (*fide* GSc). Brown Jays continued to be somewhat less widespread than in recent years, but were easy to find at a few local areas such as Salineño and Chapeño. Despite populations nearby in Oklahoma and New Mexico, there were only two well-documented records of **Black-billed Magpie** in Texas before this season. The Carpenters located one along Coldwater Creek in *Hansford* 5 Dec; later observers had up to three individuals at this same location through the season (ph., m.ob.). The sad saga of Tamaulipas Crow in Texas continues. Only one was reported during the entire winter season at the "crow park" in Brownsville and only on one day, 23 Dec (BMc). Strangely, the species is still reported as abundant less than 20 miles away in Matamoros, Mexico. A Horned Lark in *Morris* 29 Jan (D&LBro) was a good find. Cave Swallows are known to winter somewhat regularly in s. Texas, but ≤35 at San Bernard 17 Dec–21 Feb (m.ob.) were unexpected. Early expectations of a significant invasion of Red-breasted Nut-hatches spurred by early fall migrants failed to materialize, with only scattered winter reports (RWe, m.ob.). Winter Wrens made news in several areas, including two at Salineño 29 Jan (CHo), another in *Hudspeth* 20 Dec (JPa, BZ, JSp), and unusually high numbers on several e. Texas CBCs. Unexpected Mt. Bluebird records included two in *Johnson* 10–14 Dec (*fide* EW) and one at Port Aransas 8 Jan+ (m.ob., ph. JF).

It was a stunning winter for Clay-colored Robins in s. Texas, with as many as eight in and around Salineño, five at Bentsen (m.ob.), and one in *Kleberg* 7 Feb (TL). Another *Turdus* thrush made news when Kitchens spotted a **Rufous-backed Robin** on the *Kenedy* courthouse lawn at Sarita 31 Jan for the 8th Texas record. The bird was well documented by m.ob. through 13 Feb. Another Texas rarity that caused a stir was Varied Thrush; two males and a female were in Lubbock 25 Dec (AF, MeA, MCa). The female stayed only a few days, but the males remained until 4 March, representing the 18th state record. Interesting winter records of Gray Catbird included individuals at Caddo L. 4 Dec (RBer), *Angelina* 23 Dec+ (LDe), Balmorhea 12 Dec (TJ), and Big Bend 21 Jan and 20 Feb (MF, M & JW). The Blue Mockingbird reported for the past several seasons continues at Weslaco on private property, where it is difficult to observe.

PIPITS THROUGH TANAGERS

A notable count of up to 19 Sprague's Pipits were in a *Hudspeth* field 9–20 Dec (BZ) for a first county record. A **Bohemian Waxwing** was well-described from Cooper L., *Hopkins*, 26 Feb for the 9th Texas record (MWh). A very late Tennessee Warbler was studied in Dallas 4 Dec (MM), while another at Rancho Viejo, *Cameron*, 28 Dec (KE) was a good find. One to two overwintering Nashville Warblers (TJ, DO et al.) in Balmorhea provided a rare Trans-Pecos winter record. An excellent description was submitted of a Lucy's Warbler in *Kenedy* 23 Jan (CR, MG), furnishing only the 3rd acceptable record e. of the Trans-Pecos. Three N. Parulas wintered in the Trans-Pecos at Balmorhea (TJ), Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend (MF), and in El Paso (JPa). The Chestnut-sided Warbler from the fall season in El Paso remained until 18 Dec (ph., BZ, JPa). A male Cape May Warbler was at Sarita 5–16 Feb (ph., m.ob.), and a Black-throated Blue was in College Station 18 Dec (BFe, JDz). Also surprising was a Black-throated Gray in *Midland* 27 Dec–6 Feb (RMS). A Palm Warbler in *Gillespie* 20 Feb provided only the 2nd winter record for the Edwards Plateau (CHa). Well away from its wintering area, a N. Waterthrush at Caddo L. 22 Jan (ERo) was quite notable. Only the second in winter for the Panhandle was a Com. Yellowthroat at Taylor Lakes W.M.A., *Donley*, 17 Jan (KS). A Wilson's Warbler at McNary 20 Dec (ph. BZ) provided the first El Paso area winter record; another in *McLennan* 2 Jan (FB) was unusual. A Summer Tanager at Caddo L. 4 Dec (RBer) was a late southbound migrant, but a brilliant male at McAllen 25 Feb (GL, KE) was perhaps an early northbound individual. A first U.T.C. record was provided by a Hepatic Tanager at Freeport 19 Dec (ph., RWe, R&MB).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Since being split, E. Towhees continue to be reported from western localities, including up to four on the South Plains this season. Field Sparrows were reported in high numbers from much of e. and coastal Texas. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Muleshoe 15 Feb (JBr) was unseasonal. Providing the first *Hudspeth* records were a Grasshopper and a Baird's Sparrow in an alfalfa field 9 Dec (BZ). Many observers reported that both Henslow's and Le Conte's Sparrows seemed to be in lower-than-normal numbers within their usual wintering areas in the e. third of the state. Rare for Big Bend, a Harris's Sparrow was located there 10 Jan (*fide* MF). Very rare in cen. Texas, two Gray-headed Juncoes were seen; one was at L. Georgetown, *Williamson*, 26 Dec (TFen) and another was in *Bell* 16 Jan (RPi). Seventy McCown's Longspurs were on N.

Padre I., *Kenedy*, 10 Feb (BS), a nice find for that area. The high count of McCown's wintering in the Granger, *Williamson*, area was 900 on 17 Jan (TFen). Probably as a result of drought conditions in n.-cen. Texas, Smith's Longspurs were virtually unreported. An outstanding find was Texas' 5th **Snow Bunting** at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 26–29 Dec (ph. MWh). The bird was seen again briefly on 15 Jan. Wandering n. a bit, Pyrrhuloxias showed up at Caprock Canyons 1 Jan (AF, RK); two others were at Palo Duro 13 Jan–12 Feb (m.ob.). A female Blue Bunting was reported at Bentsen 1–4 Dec (B&RS, J&PC). Later reports there may refer to migrating Indigos. In recent years Rusty Blackbirds have been scarce in Texas, but this winter they made a good showing in the ne. quarter of the state. Most noteworthy were up to 200 at L. Tyler 8 Jan (PBa). Good details were received on a male **Shiny Cowbird** in Houston 4 Feb (WRi); there are only five accepted Texas records, although we expect more of an influx. A single Bronzed Cowbird in *El Paso* 7 Dec (JPa) provided that area's first winter record. A male Hooded Oriole at Big Bend's Panther Junction 12 Dec may have been a late migrant (TV). The only Red Crossbills reported in Texas this winter were a small flock in the Davis Mts. 10–16 Jan (PHart).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

The following Texas rarities were reported with little or no documentation to support their occurrence: Thayer's Gull, L. Texoma, 6 Dec; Lewis's Woodpecker in *Midland*; and two reports of Bohemian Waxwings in Dallas during mid-Feb.

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For the third consecutive year the Region enjoyed a mild winter. Snowfall was relatively light, temperatures were above normal, and many lakes and reservoirs remained ice-free. Unlike typical winters, some colder mountain valley locations reported only a day or two of subzero temperatures. Open water, adequate food supplies, and warm temperatures encouraged record numbers of waterfowl and "half-hardy" species such as doves, wrens, and blackbirds to linger or overwinter. Winter finches were absent, with the exception of Common Redpolls.

Although the season's weather held few surprises, birders had plenty of excitement with the discoveries of several remarkable birds. Most incredible was the fact that the best birds of the winter season were a shorebird, a flycatcher, and a warbler! Please read on for the interesting details.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (*American Falls Res., by American Falls, ID*); D.F.N.W.R. (*Deer Flat N.W.R., Canyon, ID*); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude, used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana)

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

An imm. Yellow-billed Loon below A.F.R. dam 7 Dec–15 Feb (MCr, TS, m.ob.) provided the first winter record for Latilong 27. Unusually late grebes included a Pied-billed in *Flathead*, MT, 3–8 Dec (SG), two Eareds in Boise, ID, 4 Dec (DT), and a Clark's in *Gooding*, ID, 18 Dec (m.ob.). Above-average numbers of Am. White Pelicans stayed in Idaho: up to eight wintered in *Gooding* (KF), one was in *Lemhi* 18 Dec (HR), one was at A.F.R. 26 Dec (CT), and three were in *Owyhee* 2 Jan (JD). Up to five Great Egrets were in *Gooding*, ID, 18 Dec–5 Feb (KF), where they are now expected in winter.

Higher-than-usual numbers of seasonally rare geese lingered in Idaho until mid-Jan, including two Greater White-fronteds, ≤36 Snows, and 11 Ross's. Record counts for Tundra Swans were reported on two CBCs: *268* on the Bigfork, MT, CBC 18 Dec and *245* on the American Falls, ID, CBC 26 Dec. A Mallard × N. Pintail hybrid was a noteworthy find in Helena, MT, 5 Dec (JS). As in the past several winters, a male Eur. Wigeon returned to Boise to winter. Two other Eurasians were in *Kootenai*, ID, 28 Dec (SS), and two were in Lewiston, ID, 2 Jan–6 Feb (KD, BJ, CS). Seldom reported in winter, 1–6 Long-tailed Ducks stayed below A.F.R. dam 1 Dec–7 Jan (CT, m.ob.) and one wintered in *Canyon*, ID. Several record duck counts were reported on CBCs, including 4144 Com. Goldeneyes at Bruneau, ID, 2 Jan, 103 Hooded Mergansers at Bigfork, MT, 18 Dec, and 798 Com. Mergansers at Nampa, ID, 26 Dec.

Although very rare in winter, two lingering Ospreys were tallied on the Libby, MT, CBC 18 Dec and another, possibly an early migrant, was in *Gooding*, ID, 16 Feb (KF). The total of six Gyrfalcons observed during the period was about average. A Sora discovered near Bozeman 31 Dec (JRy) provided a rare winter record for Montana. The Sandhill Crane that overwintered in Blaine, ID (BS), and another at D.F.N.W.R. 4 Feb (JG) were unusual.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Two Dunlins in *Canyon*, ID, 6–21 Feb were rare (JG, m.ob.), but another near Belgrade, MT, 16 Jan–29 Feb (MS, m.ob.) was even more unusual. The Greater Yellowlegs that persisted in *Nez Perce*, ID, 1 Dec–22 Jan (BJ, m.ob.) was rare but not unprecedented. An amazing discovery was Idaho's first **Ruff** at D.F.N.W.R. 26 Dec–9 Jan (ph. FH, †JG, m.ob.). Almost as surprising was an **American Woodcock** found dead in Helena, MT, 9 Jan (LG).

It was another banner season for rare gulls. Single Bonaparte's Gulls near Lewiston 4 Jan (CS) and at D.F.N.W.R. 6 Feb (DB) provided Idaho winter latilong firsts. Mew Gulls were unaccountably down by half from last year, with singles in *Gooding*, ID, 7 Dec (KF), Boise, ID, 31 Dec (CS), and near Bigfork, MT, 18 Dec (DC). Discovered in *Canyon* last November, Idaho's first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was sporadic in Boise

Idaho's first Ruff was this unseasonable adult female at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge 26 Dec 1999–9 Jan 2000. Most records in the West are during fall. This image was captured on 28 Dec. Photograph by Fred A. Hill.

through 22 Jan (m.ob.). An ad. **Kumlien's Iceland Gull** at A.F.R. 26–27 Feb (DB, MCr, †CT) was especially significant because of increasing reports of Iceland Gulls in the West. A total of six Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported in Idaho, one of which overwintered in Boise (DT). Montana reported two Glaucous-winged × W. Gulls in *Lake* 4 Dec and one in *Flathead* 18 Dec (DC). Single Glaucous Gulls visited *Kootenai*, ID, 8 Jan (LH, m.ob.), A.F.R. 26 Feb (MCr), and Polson, MT, 26-27 Feb (CP, TT).

A wayward Band-tailed Pigeon stopped in *Canyon*, ID, 2 Feb (MJ). For the second consecutive winter, record numbers of Mourning Doves were reported in w. Montana. With vole populations down from last year, owls wandered in both states. In a continuing trend, two Barn Owls strayed to *Ravalli*, MT, 1 Dec–9 Jan (WT). An E. Screech-Owl in *Broadwater*, MT, 17 Jan provided a first for Latilong 28 (EA) and a W. Screech-Owl in *Blaine*, ID, 23 Dec was a new addition to Latilong 25 (BS). Another seasonal first was a Barred Owl that wintered in Boise, ID. Sightings of at least four Great Gray Owls away from expected wintering areas were noteworthy. A Boreal Owl that wandered to Twin Falls, ID, 1 Jan provided a first for Latilong 25 (MT). Like last year, single Lewis's Woodpeckers overwintered in Boise, ID (DT), and *Ravalli*, MT (CPo). Montana's 6th **Eastern Phoebe** was an incredible find in *Lake* 5–26 Dec (FT, m.ob.). At least ten Say's Phoebes were reported in sw. Idaho, more than usual. One of the best birds of the season, a stunning male **Vermilion Flycatcher** graced *Ravalli*, MT, 2–11 Jan (BG, ph. CB, m.ob.) and furnished Montana's first record.

JAYS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Only five Blue Jays were reported in Idaho throughout the period, the lowest tally in many years. They were also scarce in Montana, with the exception of a record 13 counted on the Kalispell CBC 2 Jan. Two early **Tree Swallows** in *Gooding* 17 Feb (KF) provided a first winter record for Idaho and the Region. Usually absent or rare in winter, many Mountain and Western Bluebirds were reported in *Owyhee*, ID, throughout the period. Reports of several wintering Hermit and Varied Thrushes in sw. Idaho and single Gray Catbirds in Montana's *Lake* 19 Dec (SC) and *Gallatin* 31 Dec (SH) definitely indicated a mild winter.

More seasonally rare warblers than usual were reported in both states. Single Idaho Orange-crowned Warblers were in *Twin Falls* 2 Jan (*fide* JR), D.F.N.W.R. 16 Jan (DT), and below A.F.R. dam 17 Jan (*fide* CT). Montana birders reported Yellow-rumped Warblers in Missoula 1 Dec–5 Feb (TT), *Ravalli* 25 Dec (WT), and *Park* 1 Jan (TM). A superb find was Idaho's first **Pine Warbler** at Moscow 7 Dec–29 Feb (†KD, †MD, ph. RH, m.ob.). Providing a first winter record for Montana was a **Common Yellowthroat** in *Lake* 13 Jan (JB).

Seasonally rare in Idaho, three Savannah Sparrows tarried in *Canyon* 26 Dec (FH), and one was below A.F.R. dam 8–22 Jan (MCr). Some sparrows that returned to Idaho early furnished winter latilong firsts, including a Sage Sparrow in *Ada* 21 Feb and nine Savannah Sparrows in *Owyhee* 4 Feb (DT). Single Lincoln's Sparrows persisted in *Blaine*, ID, 5 Dec (KF), *Gallatin*, MT, 31 Dec (EH), and *Canyon*, ID, 2 Feb (MJ). As usual, there were many reports of rare White-throated and Harris's Sparrows, but two Golden-crowned Sparrows that stayed below A.F.R. dam provided a first winter record for Latilong 27 (MCr). Another Golden-crowned in *Cassia*, ID, 13 Dec (MA) was a latilong first. An outstanding find was the imm. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** near Pocatello 18 Dec (†CT), providing a first winter record for Idaho.

Rare and local in winter, single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in *Gooding*, ID, 18 Dec–12 Jan (KF), *Blaine*, ID, 2 Jan (BS), and *Ravalli*, MT, 2 Jan (DL), but an astonishing *72* were tallied on the Bruneau, ID, CBC 2 Jan. The only report of Rusty Blackbirds featured 2–3 in *Gallatin*, MT, 26 Dec–23 Feb (EA, JP). Small numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds usually winter in Idaho, but a record 610 tallied on the Bruneau CBC 2 Jan provided further evidence of the mild winter. In Great-tailed Grackle news, 32 were tallied at D.F.N.W.R. 26 Dec (JG), one wintered below A.F.R. dam (CT), and one visited Twin Falls, ID, 28 Jan (KF).

Montana's 5th **Brambling** was sporadic in Helena 1 Dec–13 Feb (†JS, m.ob.). The Com. Redpoll irruption from last fall continued through winter in most locations outside of sw. Idaho. Less than annual, two Hoary Redpolls were in Gardiner, MT, 12 Dec (TM) and *eight* were in *Flathead*, MT, 2 Jan (DC). A Lesser Goldfinch that stayed below A.F.R. dam 1 Jan–26 Feb provided a first winter record for Latilong 27 (MCr).

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This year most areas in the Region were above normal in temperature and about normal or slightly below in moisture. Many species wintered much farther north than usual. In Colorado, various species which normally do not winter were reported. Some included Sandhill Crane, Bonaparte's Gull, Burrowing Owl, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Savannah Sparrow, and Bullock's Oriole. Many others were reported in higher numbers than usual.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Two Red-throated Loons were located in Colorado, one at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, 4–14 Dec (BKP, m.ob.) and one at Chatfield Res., *Jefferson/Douglas*, 7–12 Dec (JBH, DAL, JK). Five Pacific Loons were reported from Colorado this winter. An imm. **Yellow-billed Loon** at Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT, 14 Jan–1 Mar (RDo, m.ob.) provided the 7th Utah record. Another wintered at Pueblo Res., CO, 5 Dec–29 Feb+ (MJ, m.ob.). A Red-necked Grebe was at Valmont Res., in Boulder, *Boulder*, CO, 19 Dec–9 Jan (JV, m.ob.). Rare in s. Utah in winter, a Horned Grebe was reported on the Silver Reef CBC, *Washington*, 16 Dec (PRS, JKr,TN). In Nevada, a Horned was at Walker L., *Mineral*, 11 Dec (DS) and five were at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, 1 Jan (v.o.). A high count of 219 Eared Grebes was at Pueblo Res. CBC 18 Dec (TL, et al.). Eight Am. White Pelicans were noted in Colorado and a straggler was at Pyramid L. 1 Jan (JA, et al.). A Double-crested Cormorant was at Stratton Pond, *Washington*, UT, 18 Dec (PRS, JK, TN). A Green Heron lingered at Oxbow Park, *Washoe*, NV, until 18 Dec (TF, KM). At least six Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen during the winter season in Colorado.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was near St. George, *Washington*, UT, 5 Feb (JKr). A Black Brant frequented two locations in *Boulder*, CO, 1–22 Jan (LK). Trumpeter Swans included a single at Boulder that has been there since last spring; one at McCall L., w. of Longmont, *Boulder*, CO, 19 Dec (JP, BP); and two in Loveland, *Larimer*, CO, 5 Jan–16 Feb (NK., m.ob.). Tundra Swans included an imm. in Grand Jct. 19 Dec (*fide* RL) and two imm. at Highline Res., *Mesa*, CO, 2–3 Jan (RL). A male Eur. Wigeon wintered along the Arkansas R. in Pueblo 8 Dec+ (VAT) and another male was at Durango, *La Plata*, CO, 22 Feb (TG). Rare in s. Utah, a pair of Greater Scaup were at Stratton Pond 18 Dec (PRS,JKr,TN) and a male and four females were there 19 Feb (DGr, Salt Lake Birders). Colorado had reports of 18 Greaters from seven locations. Scoter reports included a female Surf Scoter at Fountain, *El Paso*, CO, 21 Dec–9 Jan (BG, m.ob.); an imm. White-winged at Shipwreck Pond, *Mesa*, CO, 23–27 Dec (DW); and another at Clifton Ponds, *Mesa*, CO, 2–3 Jan (RL). A high count of 153 Barrow's Goldeneyes was recorded 1 Dec from seven locations in w. Colorado (RL, KP, et al.). Others were females along the Truckee River at Reno, *Washoe*, NV, 30 Jan (TF, KS) and at Patrick, *Storey*, NV, 20 Feb (MM, GC). Rarely reported in high numbers from the Great Basin area of the Region, 50+ Hooded Mergansers were at Ivins Res., *Washington*, UT, 19 Dec (DGr, Salt Lake Birders) and 22 were in w. Colorado at Jerry Creek Res., *Mesa*, CO, 1 Dec (KP, RL et al.).

Three **Red-shouldered Hawks** were reported in Utah from three locations (there had been fewer than 10 records); another two were in Colorado. The Utah birds included one near Cedar City, *Iron*, 17 Dec and 9 Jan (PRS), one w. of Enterprise, *Washington*, 16 Jan and 19 Feb (PRS, SS), an imm. in the Washington Fields near St. George 19 Feb, (JKr, RFr). In Colorado, a juv. was in *Adams*, CO, 1–8 Jan (TL, DSc, et al.) and another juv. was at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, CO, 28 Jan (BB). A rarity in winter, a Peregrine Falcon was at St. George (Mormon Temple), *Washington*, UT 5 Feb (JKr). A juv. gray-morph **Gyrfalcon** was s. of Fleming, *Logan*, CO, 11 Jan (NE).

GROUSE THROUGH GULLS

Greater Prairie-Chickens appear to be expanding their range in ne. Colorado; of note, one was observed along Interstate 76 in *Weld*, CO, 11 Jan (RO), Fairly rare in Colorado in winter, two Soras were reported, one near Penrose, *Fremont*, 19 Dec (*fide* RW) and another at John Martin Res., *Bent*, 21 Jan (CLW, BKP). High counts of Sandhill Cranes in w. Colorado included 115 at Delta, 18 Dec (RL) and 85 there 23 Jan (RL), 548 near Grand Junction 19 Dec (*fide* RL), and one at Meeker, *Rio Blanco*, CO, 4 Dec (DH).

Three Mountain Plovers were at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV, 17 Dec.(LN). A W. Sandpiper was at the south end of Walker L. 30 Dec (MM, et al.). An unexpected **Baird's Sandpiper** was walking on the ice at L. Holbrook, *Otero*, CO, 31 Dec (MJ, BKP). An **American Woodcock** was observed near Longmont, *Boulder*, CO, 18–24 Dec (JP, DG, m.ob.).

Probably the result of lingering warm fall weather, Colorado's first winter jaeger reports consisted of a **Pomarine** at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*, CO, a bird that stayed to 7 Dec (BB, BF, TL, m.ob.); another dark-morph Pomarine was at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, CO, 4 Dec (MJ, BKP). Gulls were seen in extravagant numbers this season in e. Colorado. An early ad. Franklin's Gull was at Barr L., *Adams*, CO, 22 Jan (DF et al.) and the same bird was at Lochbuie, *Adams/Weld*, 26–30 Jan (TL, DF, BSu, m.ob.). The fall-reported Little Gull at Pueblo Res., CO, stayed to 6 Feb (BKP, PH, TL, MJ, m.ob.). At least 110 Bonaparte's Gulls wintered at Pueblo Res., CO, with a few individuals staying to 26 Feb (BKP, MJ, m.ob.), Also in Colorado, Mew Gulls were reported from nine locations during the period, probably representing only 3–4 individuals. Reports included an ad. at Cherry Creek Res. during the fall to 1 Jan (JBH, DAL, GH), an ad. at Union Res., *Weld*, 21–22 Dec (JP), a first-winter at Pueblo Res. 10 Dec (BKP, VZ), two adults together at Pueblo Res. 31 Jan–13 Feb (PH, BKP, m.ob.), another ad. at Jim Hamm Pond, *Boulder*, 28–29 Feb+ (DWK), a first-winter in *Weld* and *Adams*, 31 Dec–30 Jan (JV, BK, TL, m.ob.), and a first-alternate at L. Henry, *Crowley*, 12 Feb (MJ). A second-winter hybrid Herring × Glaucous Gull, was at Horseshoe L., *Larimer*, CO 29 Feb+ (JV). An astonishing 18 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded in e. Colorado this winter. A **Glaucous-winged Gull** was observed at Horseshoe L., CO, 28–29 Feb+ (DEC, m.ob.). Up to five Great Black-backed Gulls were reported in e. Colorado and nine Glaucous Gull were noted this season. An unexpected juv. Black-legged Kittiwake was at John Martin Res. 19–22 Jan (CLW, BKP, RO, DQ).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove sightings from Colorado included four in Lamar 31 Jan–4 Feb (DAL) and three in Fowler, *Otero*, 20 Feb (BKP, LE, JW, RW). Nearby, two Inca Doves were in Rocky Ford, *Otero*, CO, 27–29 Feb (SO, m.ob.). Ten Barn Owls were reported from Colorado this season (v.o.). An E. Screech-Owl was at Lamar, *Prowers*, CO, 1 Dec–29 Feb+ (DAL), and 13 N. Pygmy-Owls were reported from the Colorado mountains during the period. A hardy **Burrowing Owl** spent the winter near Interstate 25 s. of Denver in *Douglas*, CO (UK, HEK), An imm. Snowy Owl was on the Pawnee Natl. Grasslands, *Weld*, CO, 3–8 Feb (DM, JH, m.ob.). Two **Barred Owls** were observed along the Cimarron R., *Baca*, CO, 20 Jan (CLW, BKP), and may represent the 2nd Colorado record. A N. Saw-whet Owl was near Briggsdale, *Weld*, CO early Jan–29 Feb (JM, DCE, m.ob.).

A remarkable trilling male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Boulder 21 Dec (TD) may have provided Colorado's first winter record. Up to 12 Lewis's Woodpeckers wintered in the Shoal Creek Valley, *Washington*, UT (PRS, RF, JKr). Rare in winter, an imm. male Williamson's Sapsucker was at Florence Mt. Park, *Fremont*, CO, 19 Dec (SB, TL); a female was at Penrose, *Fremont*, CO, 20 Dec (RW). A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Grand Jct., *Mesa*, CO, 19 Jan–17 Feb (LA). A male Yellow-shafted Flicker was at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV, 22 Dec (ph. MM).

Yellow-shafted Flickers of the northerly subspecies C. a. luteus are rare to uncommon fall and winter visitors to the Southwest. This adult male was photographed at Fallon, Nevada, 22 Jan 2000. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

TITMOUSE THROUGH FINCHES

A Juniper Titmouse at Springfield, *Baca*, CO, 21 Jan., was e. of normal (CLW, BKP). Carolina Wrens were reported from four e. Colorado locations this season, and Winter Wrens were widespread there, including 17 from 13 locations. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Two Buttes Res. 1–30 Dec (DAL, JP), one was w. of Pueblo 9 Dec–1 Jan (BKP, MJ), three were on the w. end of Pueblo Res. 18 Dec (CS, PSS), and three were on the Boulder CBC 19 Dec (PP, PHa). A male W. Bluebird was found near Walsh, *Baca*, CO, 6 Feb (MJ, BKP). Four Hermit Thrushes wintered in e. Colorado, and a female Varied Thrush was at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, CO, 9 Jan–12 Feb (J. Norton, m.ob.). Ten N. Mockingbirds were found in Colorado during the period. Sage Thrashers were reported from *Weld*, CO, 18 Jan (GH) and one was in *Alamosa*, CO, 17 Feb (JJR). Single Brown Thrashers were at Beulah, *Pueblo*, CO, 2 Jan (AW); Olathe, *Montrose*, CO, 24 Jan (*fide* C. Day); and Lamar, CO, 31 Jan–5 Feb (DAL).

An Orange-crowned Warbler was reported on the Grand Junction CBC, *Mesa*, CO, 19 Dec (*fide* RL). A Pine Warbler was at Ft. Collins, *Larimer*, CO, 13–17 Dec (BC). A Yellow Palm Warbler was near Pueblo 26 Dec (DS). A female Com. Yellowthroat was w. of Pueblo 18 Dec (BKP), a male was e. of Pueblo 26 Dec+ (DSi), one was e. of Rocky Ford 2–19 Jan (SO, VAT et al.). Two Green-tailed Towhees were located near Grand Jct. 19 Dec (*fide* RL). In Colorado, E. Towhee reports included singles in Boulder 8 Dec–6 Jan (MW, BK), Penrose 10 Dec–29 Feb+ (ph. JW, RW, m.ob.), and Cañon City 19 Dec (PAG, BM, PH, LM). Possibly Utah's first **Canyon Towhee** was reported from Hatch Trading Post, *San Juan*, 7 Jan (DGr, TS). Rufous-crowned Sparrows remained in Cañon City, CO, 19 Dec–22 Jan (DSi, DJ). Rare in winter, a Field Sparrow was in e. *Pueblo*, CO, mid-Dec–26 Dec (DR) and another was along the Arkansas R. in Pueblo 1 Jan (BKP, MJ). A Lark Bunting was e. of Rocky Ford, CO, 2 Jan (MJ) and three were in *Baca*, CO, 6 Feb (MJ, BKP). At least six Savannah Sparrows were at the w. end of John Martin Res. 3–29 Feb+ (DAL, m.ob.). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was at w. end of John Martin Res. 21 Jan (CLW) and ≤8 were located in wetlands near there 2–29 Feb+ (ph. DAL, m.ob.). A Red Fox Sparrow was reported from the foothills at Georgetown, *Clear Creek*, CO, 7 Feb (TD). Five Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from four e. Colorado locations. Rare but regular, a Swamp Sparrow was at Seegmiller Marsh, *Washington*, UT, 5 Feb. (JKr, JF). An imm. White-throated Sparrow was at the Carson River Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV, 26 Feb (LN), and an adult was at Oxbow Park in Reno, NV, 18–21 Dec. (v.o.). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was observed w. of Pueblo 23 Dec (BKP, DSM, PAG, MP) and two were at Red Cliffs, *Washington*, UT, 18 Dec and 5 Feb (PRS, JK, TN). Up to 20 **McCown's Longspurs** wintered at Carson L., the first known wintering of this species in Nevada. At least two Lapland Longspurs also wintered at Carson L., providing the first wintering of this species in the Lahontan Valley. Single Snow Buntings were at Wolford Mt. Project Rec. Area, *Routt*, CO, 18 Dec (TH); Black Forest, *El Paso*, CO, 31 Dec (BBH); and Pueblo Res. 8–25 Jan (KS, m.ob.).

Rarely reported in winter, Yellow-headed Blackbirds included two males at Fossil Creek Marsh, *Larimer*, CO, 2 Dec–6 Jan (CC, SJD), 12 at Monte Vista N.W.R., *Rio Grande*, CO, 11 Dec (*fide* JJR), three males and one female n. of Barr L. S.P., *Adams*, CO, 31 Dec (TL), and one male at L. Meredith, *Crowley*, CO, 27 Feb (SO). A mob of 295 Great-tailed Grackles wintered near Barr L. 9 Dec–5 Feb (TL, m.ob.). Totally unexpected in Colorado in winter, single **Bullock's Orioles** were reported from Lamar, CO, 1 Dec (DAL); Brighton, *Adams*, CO, 1–31 Dec (MF, TL, DF); and at a feeder on the Denver CBC 18 Dec (*fide* DSc). An imm. or female Purple Finch was in Colorado City, *Pueblo*, CO, 6 Feb (DS). Lesser Goldfinches were reported from 13 locations in Colorado.

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The winter season in Arizona was uncharacteristically mild and dry. A very wet summer monsoon season left the grasslands rich with food, and this winter was one of the best we could remember for wintering sparrows. The mild temperatures, particularly in the northern portion of the state, allowed a number of species to winter (or at least linger) farther north than normal. It was a particularly good winter for rare warblers in the state, including yet another Rufous-capped Warbler. A winter storm in February brought an amazing pelagic to the streets of Yuma, and Arizona recorded an Eastern Towhee, the first ever west of the Continental Divide.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (*Arizona Bird Committee*); N.I.R. (*Navajo Indian Reservation*); P.A.P. (*Pinal Airpark Pecan Grove*); S.P.R. (*San Pedro River*); T.T.L. (*Tempe Town Lake*); UA (*University of Arizona, Tucson*); W.W.D. (*White Water Draw*).

LOONS THROUGH MERGANSERS

Two Pacific Loons were reported: one on the Colorado R. n. of Parker 7 Dec (RD, RP), and another at Lee's Ferry, *Coconino*, 9–23 Feb (CTL). Always noteworthy away from the Colorado R., two Horned Grebes were located at the new T.T.L. 27 Dec (DC) and were seen through at least 22 Jan (RMJ, RBi). A Clark's Grebe was at W.W.D. 22 Jan (RH, PL); this species is quite rare in se. Arizona during winter. After the passing of a Pacific storm front 21 Feb that brought light rain and high sw. winds, an imm. **Red-billed Tropicbird** was picked up 22 Feb in a residential area in Yuma (*fide* B. Henry) providing the 6th state record. It was taken to a rehabilitation center in Phoenix, where it died the next day (*UA). An Am. White Pelican provided a 2nd winter record for n. Arizona 6 Dec–25 Feb (J. Sweeney, CTL *et al*). Great Egrets were found at unusual locations this winter: 1–4 were at Prescott throughout the period (CT) and another was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. 2 Jan (B. Friest, D. Kramm); both provided only the second winter records locally. An early January report of over 1000 White-faced Ibises at Cibola N.W.R. along the lower Colorado R., where this species is a rare but regular winter resident, was unprecedented (D. Taylor).

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in about average numbers this year. Singles were at Willow L., *Yavapai*, 7 Nov–17 Jan (BT, CT), Arizona City 8 Dec (RH), Nogales 18 Jan–23 Feb (PL, MS), and two were at W.W.D. 23 Jan (SM). This year was incredible for Ross's Geese. Four were at Awahtukee *Maricopa* 18 Dec (RD), two were on another e. *Maricopa* pond 1–19 Jan (RMJ, SG, TC, RD), four were at Scottsdale 10 Jan (AS), eleven were at Willcox 11 Jan (PL, JLD), single individuals were at Arizona City 12 Jan (JLD) and Wellton 18 Jan (RH, PL), eight were at W.W.D. 23 Jan (SM), and one was at Page 22–29 Feb (CTL). For the third year in a row a Canada Goose of the *minima* race was present in Wellton 10 & 18 Jan (PL). The only Eur. Wigeon of the season was a male that spent the winter at a traditional e. *Maricopa* pond (TC). Nearly annual somewhere in the state, the only Long-tailed Duck this year was observed on Lake Havasu 5 Feb (NB). The only Com. Goldeneyes reported away from the Colorado R. were three females at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 1 Feb (MS). An interesting diving duck thought to be a Barrow's × Com. Goldeneye was at Lee's Ferry 20–23 Dec (CTL); this combination is rare in North America. This winter saw Hooded Mergansers widely reported in the s. part of the state; the largest count was of 25 at nw. Phoenix 1 Jan (TC).

OSPREY THROUGH GULLS

Providing only the third winter record for the N.I.R., an Osprey was found at L. Powell 13 Jan (C. Goetze, CTL). This year was excellent for White-tailed Kites; one was sw. of Phoenix 4 Dec (CB), an amazing five were at Arlington 29 Dec (*fide* TC), two were at Cibola N.W.R. 12 Feb (TC), and singles were in se. Arizona at the San Rafael Grasslands 8 Jan (PL) and Arivaca Cienega 29 Feb (R. Schrader). A Red-shouldered Hawk wintered at the Hassayampa R. Preserve (L. Norris), the same location where one spent last summer. This species is normally only a casual visitor to the state. Zone-tailed Hawks are very rare during winter in Arizona; therefore, two individuals, one in Tucson 6 Dec–3 Jan (Z. Madden, M.O.B.) and one at Tacna 18 Jan (PL), were interesting. Crested Caracaras were noted away from their known range near Sells, at P.A.P. pecan grove 7–28 Jan (PL) and on the San Rafeal Grasslands 29 Feb (G. West).

An unusually high concentration of 120 Mt. Plovers was s. of Yuma 18 Dec (J. Taylor); normally they are found in small flocks along the lower Colorado R. Of interest were three Greater Yellowlegs at Mormon L. 18–23 Dec (J. Coons); they are extremely rare during winter in n. Arizona. Rare anywhere in the state during winter, two Lesser Yellowlegs were at Arlington 28 Dec (TC). Another rare winter shorebird, W. Sandpipers were reported in the s. this year, with 1–2 at El Mirage Pond, *Maricopa* 4 Dec–26 Jan (RMJ, SG, R. Witzeman, KB), while others were reported at Buckeye 29 Dec (W. Thurber) and along the Santa Cruz R. 26 Dec (MS). Even rarer, a Stilt Sandpiper present 5 Dec–1 Jan in e. Maricopa (RMJ, SG) provided the first winter record for Arizona. A Com. Snipe, probably a late migrant, was at Page 19 Dec (K. McMullen).

A late Franklin's Gull, still in alternate plumage, was photographed at Topock Marsh 7 Dec (RD), while another, probably an early spring migrant, was at W.W.D. 29 Feb (D. Touret). Single Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at Arizona City 1 Jan (NB), Wahweep Coconino 3 Jan (B.&K. Bobowski), and at T.T.L. 8 Jan (RB). The only report of Herring Gull was of an individual at W.W.D. 8 Jan (JLD). A little farther afield, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point) in Sonora, Mexico, 19 Dec (ph. RMJ, SG), providing a first record for w. Mexico.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Com. Ground-Dove at Portal 6 Dec (DJ) was the first winter record for that area. Ruddy Ground-Doves made their annual invasion into Arizona; this year individuals were at El Mirage Pond until 4 Dec (KB) and P.A.P. pecan grove 15 Jan (DC), two were at the San Pedro House 2 Jan–24 Feb (DK, E. Johnson, M. Overton), and five were at Tacna 10–18 Jan (PL). Short-eared Owls were widely observed in the south. The individuals first discovered during October in the San Rafael Grasslands were present throughout the period (m.ob.); a

Amazingly, this immature Red-billed Tropicbird at Yuma 22 Feb 2000 was the sixth recorded in Arizona; all prior records are from fall. Photograph by Bob Henry.

high of 12 was seen 31 Jan (D. Abbott, T. Hall). Other reports were of singles at Arlington 29 Dec–1 Jan (TC), Arizona City 12 Jan (JLD), and Picacho Reservoir during Jan (S.&J. Levy). Interesting was a report of a Whip-poor-will from Garden Canyon 11 Dec (RH, D. Lane); there are no verified winter reports of this species in the state.

An above-average number of Violet-crowned Hummingbirds wintered this year; one was at Portal throughout the period (JLD, DJ), two birds were at Tucson 19 Dec and 20 Jan respectively (*fide* L. Shibley, DS), and another was found dead in Green Valley 22 Dec (T. Furniss, *UA). Two Blue-throated Hummingbirds were at a low elevation in Ventana Canyon, *Pima*, 20–29 Dec (MS). The Eared Trogon first discovered during Nov in Cave Creek Canyon continued until at least 2 Jan (*fide* DJ, NMC). A second individual was in Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mts. 13–20 Dec (M&S Turner, m.ob., vt. GHR, ph. MS). The only report of Green Kingfisher this year was of two along the upper San Pedro R. seen sporadically throughout the period (DK, m.ob.). Very unusual was a report of four Acorn Woodpeckers at a lower-than-normal elevation on the campus of Arizona State University in *Maricopa* 26 Dec–Jan (JB). We received only two reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a male at Patagonia Lake 21 Jan (SM) and an imm. in ne. Tucson 14 Jan (JLD). Single Yellow-shafted Flickers were reported from the Phoenix Zoo 29 Dec+ (RMJ), Patagonia L. 9–16 Jan (PL), and Oak Flat campground, *Pinal* (JB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Two Black Phoebes were along the Colorado R. in Glen Canyon 3–30 Jan (RR, L. Dickson, J Grahame); this species has only recently been found wintering along the river as far north as the Grand Canyon. It was a surprisingly good winter for E. Phoebes in the state, with no fewer than seven reports received, most from the southeast. Although likely a rare but regular winter visitor in n. Arizona, N. Shrikes had not previously been found wintering along the Colorado R. in the Grand Canyon. This winter, one was found at river marker 5.8 on 17 Dec (CTL), while another was found dead at Lee's Ferry 1 Feb (C. Bland). Several Plumbeous Vireos were in the Tucson area this winter, with one along the Santa Cruz R. 19 Dec–26 Jan (RH), one at the Roger Road S.T.P. 25 Jan (RH), one in n. Tucson 29 Jan (RH), one in cen. Tucson 3 Feb (RH), and one in ne. Tucson 14 Jan (JLD). A Cassin's Vireo was along the Santa Cruz R. 19 Dec (RH); we are still working out the winter status in the state of both species. Accidental in winter anywhere in Arizona, a Warbling Vireo was photographed at Pena Blanca L. 24 Jan–17 Feb (P. Wang, ph. MS).

Unheard of in n. Arizona during the winter, a N. Rough-winged Swallow was reported from Lee's Ferry 16 Jan (C. Bland). A number of Barn Swallows lingered into the winter, with one along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 10 Dec (MS), one in Carefree 27 Dec (H. Beatty), two at Arlington 29 Dec (B. Palmer), and another in Tucson along the Santa Cruz R. 26 Jan (RH). This species is casual at best in Arizona during the winter. A seemingly lost Am. Crow was along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 26 Jan (MS). Word from n. Arizona was that Bushtits staged a large invasion, with greater-than-normal numbers throughout that area (CTL). Perhaps indicative of a mild winter, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found at a couple of localities in n. Arizona, with three along the Colorado R. in Glen Canyon 30 Jan (J. Grahame) and another at Page 1 Feb (CTL). There were few, if any, winter reports of this species from n. Arizona.

Amazingly, the **Carolina Wren** discovered at Cook's L. along the San Pedro R. near Dudleyville last spring wintered successfully (H. Messing, D. Laush). Winter Wrens were more prevalent in s. Arizona, with about ten reports received, most in December. It is likely that both "eastern" and "western" birds were involved; birders should pay attention to call notes, as they are the best means of differentiating between the subspecies groups. Mountain Bluebirds were not widespread throughout s. Arizona this winter, but a concentration of at least 343 on the Gila River CBC 29 Jan (*fide* TC) was indicative that they had staged at least a mini-invasion to the south. A greater-than-normal number of Rufous-backed Robins were found this winter; perhaps as many as three wintered at the B.T.A. (although only one was seen regularly), one was at Patagonia L. S.P. 11 Dec–1 Feb (m.ob.), one was along Arivaca Cr. near Arivaca 29 Dec (KKe), two were in ne. Tucson 14 Jan–2 Feb (RH, PL), and one was reported from Green Valley 27 Jan (B. Massey). Still casual anywhere in the state during winter, a Varied Thrush was reported from a Tempe yard 17 Jan (P. Wilson, S. Machen). The Gray Catbird that was discovered in Portal during the fall season was still present 2–3 Jan (JLD); another was at Oak Flat 15 Jan (E. Boyd). Another sign of a particularly mild winter in n. Arizona was a N. Mockingbird at Page 3–23 Jan (B.&K. Bobowski, J. Alston), providing perhaps a first local winter record. Individual Brown Thrashers were found in Scottsdale throughout the season (J. Bartley), at the P.A.P. pecan grove 29 Jan–23 Feb (J. McCabe, m.ob.), and in Green Valley 21 Feb (D. Tracy); this species is a rare but almost regular winter visitor in s. Arizona.

WARBLERS

Two Olive Warblers were at a lower-than-expected elevation in Hawshaw Canyon 9 Feb (MS). At least eight N. Parulas were discovered this winter, with birds along the Verde R. 1 Dec (S. Demaree et al.), at Kino Springs 11 Dec (KKe), along the Salt River

ne. of Phoenix 16 Dec (TC), along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 19 Dec (GHR, RH), at Arlington 1 Jan (TC), and along Sonoita Creek s. of Patagonia 3 Jan (RH). Amazingly, another was at Lee's Ferry 20–29 Dec (CTL, C. Goetze, G. Nealon), providing what was undoubtedly the first winter record for n. Arizona. Chestnut-sided Warblers in s. Arizona during the winter are becoming routine; this year one was at Arlington 28–29 Dec (TC, JW, RW), two were along the Santa Cruz R. 19 Dec (RH), and another was in n.-cen. Tucson 1 Feb+ (RH). Still one of the rarer warblers to occur in Arizona, with fewer than ten total records, is **Pine Warbler**, so one well-documented at Bisbee 4–22 Jan (W. Wallraven, H. Brodkin, ph. MS) was of great interest. Two other reports were intriguing, one from Hawshaw Canyon 26 Jan (D. Touret), and another from Ramsey Canyon 3 Feb (M. Pretti, H. Brodkin), but the A.B.C. has yet to receive details of either sighting. Virtually every record of this species in the state is from the winter. Similarly, **Prairie Warbler** is among the warblers with the fewest state records and most are from late fall and winter. One found along the Verde R. on the F.M.I.R. 16 Dec (†TC) brings the total number of reports in the state to seven. The only Black-and-white Warbler report for the season was one at Pena Blanca L. 4 Dec (KKe). Likewise, the only Am. Redstart found this winter was one along the Gila R. near Robbin's Butte 29 Dec (TC). Normally somewhat rarer in winter than the previous two species, two Ovenbirds were found, along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 23–31 Dec (J. Saba et al.) and in ne. Tucson 12 Jan–8 Feb (RH et al.). Likely a rare but regular winter visitor to rocky streams in the se. portion of the state, one Louisiana Waterthrush was reported this winter, a bird in Garden Canyon 11 Dec (RH, D. Lane). Outstanding for winter, a male Hooded Warbler was located in Reid Park, Tucson, 2 Dec–1 Jan (m.ob.). Another Hooded, this time a female, was along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 26 Jan (MS); there are few previous winter reports. A Wilson's Warbler was along the Santa Cruz R. 5 Dec (RH). The Painted Redstart found along Camp Creek during the fall (for the third year in a row) was still present 26–27 Dec (TC); this locale is well n. of most winter records for the state. After nearly a two-year hiatus, another **Rufous-capped Warbler** was located in French Joe Canyon 20 Nov+ (KKe, ph. M. Rogers), establishing only a 9th record for Arizona. One wonders if a small population has been present in French Joe since at least 1995, when the first ones were found there!

BUNTINGS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

The bird of the season was a male **Eastern Towhee** along Sonoita Cr. just s. of Patagonia, first found on the Patagonia CBC and then relocated 30 Jan+ (J. McCabe, RH, KKe, ph. MS, v.r. GHR). This bird establishes a first Arizona record and the first record west of the Continental Divide. Intriguing was the report of a Botteri's Sparrow from grasslands adjacent to the San Pedro R. e. of Sierra Vista 2 Jan (DK); although the bird was well-described by an excellent observer, there remains no physical documentation of this species' occurrence in Arizona during the winter. Apparently Brewer's Sparrow is a rare or casual winter visitor in n. Arizona; therefore, one at Page 21–22 Dec (CTL) was of interest. This winter was probably the best for seeing thousands of Brewer's throughout s. Arizona. Of particular local interest was the identification of a possible Timberline Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri taverneri*) along the San Pedro R. near Hereford 22 Jan (†SM); in our opinion, the jury is still out as to whether or not this form can be safely identified in the field, but it should be noted that the published winter range of this potential split from Brewer's Sparrow includes Arizona. Black-throated Sparrows are unusal in n. Arizona during winter, with sightings this year of one at Page 22 Dec (CTL), two there 3 Jan (J. Spence), and another near Cameron 18 Feb (CTL).

It was clear from a number of reports that this may have been the best year ever for the *oriantha* subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow wintering in s. Arizona; one observer reported no fewer than 200 along the San Pedro R. in early Jan, indicating unprecedented numbers for winter. This form usually winters s. in Mexico and only passes through s. Arizona during migration. At least seven reports, totaling no fewer than 12 individual Fox Sparrows were received for the period; virtually all were believed to be the subspecies *schistacea* from the Rocky Mountains, but at least one at Portal 3 Jan (JLD) was believed to be either an *iliaca* or *zaboria* from farther north/east. It is important to identify the various subspecies of Fox Sparrows in Arizona, as they may be split into at least three species and the winter status of each form in Arizona is poorly understood. Golden-crowned Sparrows, still rare in Arizona during the winter, included one along the Agua Fria R., Yavapai, 8 Jan (CBa), one in sw. Phoenix 15–21 Jan (B. Grossi et al.), and two at the Phoenix Zoo 17 Jan (RJ). Greater-than-usual numbers of both Swamp and White-throated Sparrows were in se. Arizona. More unusual were Swamp Sparrows found in n. Arizona, where there are few winter reports. One was found in the Grand Canyon (RM 8.7) 4 Feb (CTL), and another was in a different part of the Grand Canyon 23 Feb (CTL). A Red-backed Junco (*J. h. dorsalis*) was identified in Miller Canyon 11 Jan (JLD); there are few confirmed reports of this form away from its breeding grounds in the White Mountains of e. Arizona. A Lapland Longspur was photographed on the Vaca Ranch in the San Rafael Grasslands 19 Jan to at least 9 Feb (†PL, RH, ph. G. West, MS); despite being rare but regular in areas of California, there are inexplicably still fewer than a dozen verified reports from Arizona.

Very unusual during winter, two Indigo Buntings were found, one in Portal 2–5 Jan (NMC, KK et al.) and another that hit a window at the Phoenix Zoo 15 Jan (RJ). Another

The Southwest's first Eastern Towhee was this male at Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary from late Dec through the winter. It was seen by numerous observers, had various calls recorded, is videotaped, and was photographed by many; this image was from 13 Feb 2000. Photograph by Mark Stevenson.

sign of a mild winter was the occurrence of several Blue Grosbeaks along the upper S.P.R., all near Hereford, and perhaps referring to the same individuals; a female was seen 5 Dec (GHR), two males were seen 12 Feb (DK), and a male and a female were there 24 Feb (S. Turner). A stunning bird was an apparent hybrid male N. Cardinal × Pyrrhuloxia photographed at Patagonia L. 10 Jan (ph. JLD, L. Sansone); details of this rare combination will be published elsewhere.

A male Hooded Oriole, casual at best anywhere in s. Arizona during the winter, was at the B.T.A. 17 Jan (CT). More expected during winter, but still considered casual, were the Scott's Orioles at Portal 16 Dec+ (S. Spofford, DJ), the Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon 22 Dec (*fide* MS), Sycamore Canyon 28 Dec (M. Gors), and Agua Caliente Park, Tucson, 17 Jan–22 Feb (MS). For at least the third year in a row, Bronzed Cowbirds have been found wintering in the Mohawk Valley, with three birds at Wellton 18 Jan (PL). A female Red Crossbill on a nest at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon 7 Feb (CTL) was of interest, as the timing of breeding in Arizona is mostly a mystery. It was a particularly good Lawrence's Goldfinch year, with numerous birds found at a variety of locations from the Phoenix region south; even during good years (although likely bad for the birds themselves), numbers seem greatly reduced as compared to invasion years from the 1970s and 1980s.

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new mexico

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Another dry and mild winter allowed many birds to linger late, overwinter north of usual, and/or return early, all the while rearranging conventional wisdom as to the status of several species. The season was notable for unprecedented numbers of wintering sparrows, these apparently responding to abundant grasses and mild conditions, especially in south-central and southwestern New Mexico.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); R.S. (*Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A **Yellow-billed Loon** at Cochiti L. 15–26 Feb (WW et al., ph. JO) was New Mexico's 10th in 10 years. Single Pac. Loons were at Conchas L. 9 Feb (WH) and Brantley L. 18 Jan (CR); a dead Pacific at E.B.L. was being recycled by a gull 2 Feb (WW). South was a Horned Grebe at Burn L., Las Cruces, 18 Dec–9 Jan (v.o.); high counts were five Horneds at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW) and four at Brantley L. 29 Dec (JD, JO). A **Red-necked Grebe** at Farmington L. 11–23 Dec (ph. TR) provided only the 3rd confirmed state record, but was the second for that locale. One–two Am. Bitterns at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Dec–4 Feb (GW, SB) were the only ones found. Small numbers of Great Egrets overwintered at Bosque N.W.R. and B.L.N.W.R., but Snowy Egrets were unreported after late Dec. Late were four Cattle Egrets at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Dec (SC), where one remained into Feb (v.o., ph. BZ). Seven–eight White-faced Ibises also overwintered at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Dec–12 Feb (v.o., ph. BZ) and another remained at B.L.N.W.R. (GW). Very early was a Turkey Vulture near Las Cruces 18 Feb (SB).

With about 12,000 of each, Ross's Geese equaled Snow Geese at B.L.N.W.R. 3 Dec (GW); some 25,000 Snows were at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Dec (SC). To protect Arctic breeding grounds from these "light geese," it truly became open season on them in New Mexico 1 Feb, complete with no daily bag or possession limits, unplugged shotguns and electronic calls approved, and shooting hours extended to before sunrise and after sunset! Four Tundra Swans found their way to the Bernardo-La Joya area by Dec, but only one survived the experience. Although it is illegal to hunt swans in New Mexico, one was shot 19 Dec and two others were bagged 7 Jan (*fide* T. Mitchusson); the survivor was last seen 28 Jan (JP). Wandering Wood Ducks included singles at Zuni 18 Dec–8 Jan (ph. DC), Lake Valley, *Sierra*, 25 Dec (CR), and the Animas Valley 4 Jan (JD), and two were at Deming 3 & 30 Dec (LM, JD, JO); noteworthy were 10 at Española 19 Dec (BF). Cinnamon Teal are irregular in winter, so Jan reports of 1–2 at Zuni (DC), R.G.N.C. (MS, JZ, JO), Bosque Redondo (NV), Bosque N.W.R. (v.o.), and B.L.N.W.R. (GW) were noteworthy. A Blue-winged Teal was at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Dec (D. Hawksworth) and 9 Jan (JO). One-four Greater Scaup were at six locales from the R.G.V. east (v.o.); west were four males at Farmington L. 21 Feb (TR). Unusual for the far sw. was a Com. Goldeneye at Hurley 8–26 Jan (EL, LM).

OSPREYS THROUGH OWLS

Presumably early were two Ospreys at E.B.L. 1 Feb (WW). White-tailed Kites continued to tantalize, with two in the Uvas Valley 4 Feb (ph. JO) and singles in the Animas Valley 4 Dec (*fide* RS) and 20 Jan (AC, NMC) and in the R.G.V. near Garfield 18 Jan (R. Rasmussen). A dark *Buteo* at Cliff 3 Dec was carefully described as a Zone-tailed by one observer and, independently, as a Harlan's Hawk by another observer; nicely documented was a Harlan's near Anthony 6 Dec (ph. BZ) and 22 Jan (MS, JZ). Many Ferruginous Hawks winter at large prairie dog colonies near Janos, n. Chihuahua, where 21 were counted 18 Dec (C. Melcher). One–two Rough-legged Hawks were s. to the Animas Valley 4 & 20 Jan (JD, NMC, AC), Mesilla Valley 22 Jan (MS, JZ), and Dripping Springs 18 Dec (GE). Merlins were especially numer-

ous and widespread Dec–Feb, including n. to Farmington (TR) and Maxwell N.W.R. (JD, JO), and e. to Clayton (CR) and Clovis (JO); 1–7 were on 12 CBCs. A few Peregrine Falcons lingered, including one n. to Questa 19 Dec (RW), but the season's last was at Bosque N.W.R. 29 Dec (PS).

A Chukar in Albuquerque's South Valley 13 Feb (DE, BN) was almost certainly an escape. Encouraging were 17 Gould's Wild Turkeys on lower Deer Cr., Animas Mts., 7 Dec (G. Schmitt). Unusually far n. for winter were two Virginia Rails at Clayton L. 28–29 Dec (DE, CR), and singles at Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB) and at 6600 ft. at Quarai 13 & 25 Jan (HS). Also n. for the season was a Com. Moorhen at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW) and 26 Feb (DE, CR). Very early was an Am. Avocet at Bosque N.W.R. 11 Feb (DE); the earliest Black-necked Stilt was at Lordsburg 19 Feb (LM). Late Spotted Sandpipers were singles at Corrales 12 Dec (WH) and Sevilleta N.W.R. 23 Dec (SC). Surprising were four Long-billed Curlews at Moriarty 15 Jan (JO). Late Dunlins numbered one at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Dec (GW) and three at Loving 30 Dec ((SW); early were three at Bosque N.W.R. 4 Feb (LM), where there were four 11–12 Feb (DE, WH). Most unusual for winter were 1–2 Stilt Sandpipers at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Dec (JD, JO) and 4 Jan (GW).

Noteworthy for mid-winter were six Bonaparte's Gulls at B.L.N.W.R. Jan 14 (GW). Single ad. **Mew Gulls** were at Conchas L. 28 Dec (JD, ph. JO) and E.B.L. 1–20 Jan (DE, BN, JP, ph. JO). A Thayer's Gull at E.B.L. 1 Jan (DE, BN) was the only reported. Highs for Eur. Collared-Doves were six at Ft. Sumner 8 Feb (WW) and 97(!) at Roswell 18 Dec (SB); nicely documented was one at Albuquerque 18–19 Dec (vt. R. Adair). White-winged Doves continued to thrive in the s., including 366 at Roswell (SB) and a mere 17,614 at Las Cruces (GE) 18 Dec, and to overwinter in the n. (Santa Fe, Fort Sumner) and sw. (Redrock, Silver City, Deming). Noteworthy was an Inca Dove at Hillsboro 15 Jan (MS, JZ). A Com. Ground-Dove at Mesilla 31 Dec–9 Jan (JO, JD, JP, CR) provided the only report, but **Ruddy Ground-Doves** numbered two each at Deming, 4 Dec–7 Jan (LM, CR, JP, ph. JO) and Mangas 21 Dec (RF). Long-eared Owls seen where normally rare included two in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (AC) and one in the Tres Hermanas Mts. 24 Jan (LM). Short-eared Owls made a relatively good showing, with singles at Stinking L. 20 Jan (D. Stahlecker), Sevilleta N.W.R. 21 Dec (SC), and near Columbus 20 Dec (LM), plus two n. of Hachita 30 Dec (JD, JO).

SWIFTS THROUGH BUSHTITS

The climate proved suitable for White-throated Swifts, with 480 at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GE) and 10 at E.B.L. 19 Dec (JO); at least 40 were at Mesilla Dam 8 Jan (JP, JO, GE). A few hummingbirds lingered, but details were scant or lacking. Two Magnificents were at Pinos Altos 18 Dec (*fide* RS) and a probable Black-chinned was at Las Cruces through 4 Jan (GE). A male Anna's was at Albuquerque 6–19 Dec (HS) and two were reported at Las Cruces 18 Dec (GE), while 1–2 *Selasphorus* were at Silver City (*fide* RS) and Las Cruces (*fide* GE) 18 Dec.

A Lewis's Woodpecker wandered e. to Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW) and 24 Dec (JD, JO). West was a Red-headed Woodpecker at Mesilla 6 Dec–8 Jan (v.o., ph. BZ, JO). Two Gila Woodpeckers in Skull Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., 1 Jan (*fide* AC) established a new locality record. Late were two Williamson's Sapsuckers at Eldorado near Santa Fe 4–10 Jan (BF, DF). Single apparent Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers—most described as immatures—were at 13 sites from the R.G.V. eastward (v.o.); w. was one at Hillsboro 18 Dec (MS, JZ). Unusual was a Red-naped Sapsucker at Zuni 19 Dec (JT). Two Ladder-backed Woodpeckers in Bluewater Canyon 18 Dec (CR) furnished a rare Zuni Mts. record. Hairy Woodpeckers were conspicuous in the lower R.G.V., including 5–6 at Percha 12 Dec–15 Jan (JO, JP, ph. BZ). The McGaffey Burn in the Zuni Mts. continued dependable for Three-toed Woodpeckers, including two 27 Dec (JD, vt. JO). As usual, 1–2 hybrid flickers were at several locales from Clayton w. to Zuni and s. to Caballo (v.o.); one at Las Cruces was labeled a "Gilded" (*fide* GE).

Single *Empidonax* were at Socorro 28 Feb (PB) and near Riverside 17 Jan–25 Feb (RS); singles reported as Duskies were at Bosque N.W.R. 17 Jan (JP), E.B.L. 12 Dec–15 Jan (JO, JP), and Mesilla 18 & 31 Dec (JO, JD). In the n., Black Phoebes lingered at Dixon 18 Dec (RW) and Española 19 Dec (BF), while early were singles at Peña Blanca and Cochiti Dam 19 Feb (CR); noteworthy were three at Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW). Eastern Phoebes were conspicuous from the R.G.V. eastward, with highs of five at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Dec (SC) and two each at R.S. 18 & 30 Dec (SW, JD, JO) and Loving 30 Dec (SW); far w. were singles at Redrock 19 Feb (LM, RS) and the Animas Valley 18 Dec–3 Jan (AC, NMC, JD, ph. JO). Late Say's Phoebes were three at Farmington 18 Dec (AN), two at Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB), and one at Zuni 31 Dec (DC). Noteworthy for the R.G.V. were single Vermilion Flycatchers at Palomas 2 Jan (GE) and Percha 2–15 Jan (J. Paton, JP, ph. BZ).

Another good season for N. Shrikes found individuals at 19 sites, including s. to Bosque N.W.R. 30 Dec–18 Jan (v.o.), Mountainair 15 Jan (ph. JO), and near Clovis through 23 Dec (ph. JL). Lingering from Nov was a Bell's Vireo at Caballo Dam 11 Dec (JP, JO). Far w. was a Blue Jay at Cliff 1 Jan (*fide* RS); highs in the R.G.V. were five at Española 19 Dec (BF), 13 at Santa Fe 26 Dec (PI), and four at Socorro Jan–Feb (PB, J. Shipman). Seven Black-billed Magpies were at Albuquerque 19 Dec (HS); one was in the South Valley there 27 Feb (BV), where breeding is known. The earliest Tree Swallows were 20 at Bernardo (JO) and 6–8 at Bosque N.W.R. (DE, BN) 18 Feb. Late was a N. Rough-winged Swallow at Caballo Dam 2 Jan (WH, MS, JZ). Single Verdins were n. to Mangas 16 Dec–1 Jan (RF) and Socorro 15 Jan (JP) and 20 Feb (JO; exceptional were three at Sevilleta N.W.R. 23 Dec (SC). Far e. were 20 Bushtits at Portales 2–18 Dec (G. Pfaffenberger).

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS

Enjoying the mild winter was a singing Canyon Wren at Petroglyph N.M. 12 Jan (NV). Continuing their R.G.V. colonization saga, a singing **Carolina Wren** was at Los Lunas 22 & 29 Jan (JO, JP) and two persisted at Socorro 29 Jan (DE); in the se., one at R.S. since Aug was documented 29 Dec (JD, ph. JO). Unusual were 10 Bewick's Wrens at Clayton 29 Dec (CR); another was in ne. *Union* Dec–Feb (LF). House Wrens are irregular in winter, but this season produced several on Dec CBCs; Jan records included one at Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB), four in the Caballo area 2 Jan (BZ), and one at Lake Valley 25 Jan (CR). Winter Wrens staged an unprecedented "invasion," with individuals at Santa Fe (PI), Peña Blanca (WW), Zuni (JT), Bluewater (CR), Bosque Redondo (CR), Bernardo (BV), E.B.L. (JO, JP), Las Animas Cr. (DE, BN), and Ruidoso (CR), plus 1–2 in the Animas Valley 1–22 Jan (v.o.); the hotspot was Corrales, with 1–2 19 Dec–26 Feb (v.o., ph. JO, M. Martin) and five there 13 Feb (NV).

Following the autumn influx, Golden-crowned Kinglets continued in evidence, including 1–3 in submontane areas e. to Clayton L. 29 Dec (LF, CR) and Sumner Dam 26 Feb (CR) and s. to Caballo Dam 11 Dec (JP, JO) and 2 Jan (MS, WH) and R.S. 29 Dec (JO, SO); noteworthy were four at Quarai 13 and 25 Jan (HS) and 20 at Bluewater 28 Dec (BP). Lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were three at Sevilleta N.W.R. 21 Dec (SC), two at Caballo Dam 2 Jan (WH, MS, JZ), and singles at E.B.L. 12 Dec and 1 Jan (JO, DE, BN), and Percha 17 Dec (JP). Eastern Bluebirds were conspicuous throughout the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian Valleys (v.o.); w. were one

at Zuni 8 Jan (DC) and six at Deming 11 Dec (JP, JO). Mountain Bluebirds were abundant in much of New Mexico; some 2900, but only four Westerns, were near Claunch 11–14 Jan (CR). At Silver City there were 710 Westerns, but only four Mountains, 18 Dec (RS). Two Hermit Thrushes lingered at Zuni 27 Dec (DC). On the heels of a Nov record at Fruitland, **Varied Thrushes** continued to make news with one at Aztec 18–27 Dec (J. Rees, JD, JO, ph. TR) and another at Socorro 11 Jan–20 Feb (WW et al., ph. JO). Unusual for the n. were single N. Mockingbirds at Clayton 1 Jan (*fide* LF) and Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB) and two at Dixon 18 Dec (RW). One-two Brown Thrashers were at eight locales from the R.G.V. east, including singles at Corrales 15 Dec–13 Feb (ph. WH) and Socorro 17–18 Jan (PB). Curve-billed Thrashers continued in residence at Eldorado near Santa Fe (BF, DF, G&CJ), where one was singing 7 Feb (SOW). A Crissal was at Eldorado 6 Dec (G&CJ) and one was singing at Albuquerque 14 Jan (PS); remarkably early was a Crissal nest with two young at Petroglyph N.M. 27 Feb(HS). Moderate-to-large numbers of Cedar Waxwings were present through Dec, but none were reported 6 Jan–5 Feb; early were 30 at Taos 8 Feb (RW), 40 at Cerrillos 22 Feb (AF), and 63 at Santa Rosa 26 Feb (CR).

Evidence that some Olive Warblers overwinter in New Mexico was provided by one at Bear Mt. near Silver City 18 Dec (RS) and 17 Jan (B. Wilcox). January Orange-crowned Warblers included singles at Percha 2 & 8 Jan (BZ) and Deming 28 Jan (JO) plus 1–3 at Mesilla 8–9 Jan (JO, CR); reports of several dozen at Las Cruces in Dec await substantiation. Surprising was a male N. Parula at Los Alamos 12 Dec (M. MacRoberts), as was a cooperative **Ovenbird** at Albuquerque mid-Dec–Feb (HS, PS, BV, ph. JO, R. Waitz). Single Black-and-white Warblers were at Percha 15 Jan (JP) and Las Cruces 18 Dec (H. Harrison). Common Yellowthroats wintering n. in the R.G.V., included one at Bernardo 29 Jan (DE) and two at Bosque N.W.R. 10 Jan (BZ).

SPARROWS

Cassin's Sparrows are difficult to locate—and identify—in winter; this season produced possible single Cassin's at Sevilleta N.W.R. 21 & 23 Dec (J. Place) and Lake Valley 25 Jan (CR); 11 were reported on the Peloncillo CBC 1 Jan (AC). American Tree Sparrows on their s. frontier were two each at Chaco Canyon 11 Jan (H. Smith) and Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW), with singles at Albuquerque 12 Dec (CR) and Sevilleta N.W.R. 23 Dec (SC). Chipping Sparrows wintered in the sw. in sizable numbers, including 211 at Caballo 2 Jan (BZ), 1141 in the Gila Valley 1 Jan (RS), 1285 at Silver City 18 Dec (RS), and a record 2369 in the Peloncillo area 1 Jan (AC); smaller numbers were found farther n., including one at Española 19 Dec (BF), 12 at Albuquerque 26 Dec (WH), and two in the Sandia Mts. 23 Jan (BV).

Brewer's Sparrows were spectacularly abundant in the sw. and were especially conspicuous n. to the Gila Valley, Silver City, and Albuquerque, and e. to Caballo and Las Cruces; the 13,462 Brewer's on the Peloncillo CBC 1 Jan (AC) established a national record. Carefully detailed among the thousands of Brewer's were single Clay-colored Sparrows in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (JD) and 20 Jan (NMC); undetailed reports of large numbers of Clay-coloreds elsewhere remain to be confirmed and may refer to other species. Perhaps seeking grassier pastures, Field Sparrows pushed w. of usual, including two at Sumner L. 8 Feb (WW) and singles at Santa Rosa L. 19 Dec (WW), R.G.N.C. 20 Feb (banded N. Cox), Bernardo 19 Jan–18 Feb (JO, JP, DE, BN), and Animas Valley 20 Jan (NMC). Although numbering "only" in the hundreds or thousands (rather than tens of thousands), Vesper and Savannah Sparrows and Lark Buntings likewise made their presence known in the sw. Nine Lark Sparrows on the Peloncillo CBC 1 Jan (AC) established a new record. The Animas Valley grasslands produced the only Grasshopper Sparrows, with eight 1 Jan (AC), and the only Baird's Sparrows, with singles 1 Jan (CR) and 4 Jan (JD). Fox Sparrows were at 10 locales and were most numerous in the Gila and Rio Grande Valleys; noteworthy were singles in n. *Roosevelt* 12 Feb (ph. JO) and Tyrone 16 Jan (EL) and two on Macho Cr. near Nutt 26 Jan (CR). Lincoln's Sparrows were widespread in the sw., including 58 at Lake Valley 25 Jan (CR); lingering were two at Zuni (JT) and one at Santa Rosa (WW) 19 Dec. Swamp Sparrows were widely reported, including one-three w. to Silver City and the Animas Valley; 1–9 were on 14 CBCs, including n. to Zuni, Bluewater, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, and Roswell. White-throated Sparrows had an exceptional season, with numerous records in the s. and others n. to Farmington, Crown Pt., Bluewater, Española, Santa Fe, and Bosque Redondo in late Dec; notable were five at Peña Blanca 19 Feb (CR), three in the Sandia Mts. 2 Jan (CR), and one at Quarai 13 Jan (HS). Highly unusual for winter were single dark-lored White-crowned Sparrows at Blanco 29 Jan (ph. TR), a *San Juan* winter first, and at Bosque N.W.R. 18 Feb (BN). Other *Zonotrichia* in evidence were single Harris's at Corrales 19 Dec–23 Jan (v.o.), Alameda 19 Dec (T. Brownell), Las Vegas 2 Jan (GB), and s. *Curry* 19–26 Dec (ph. JL), and single Golden-crowneds near Socorro 18 Jan (WW) and 18 & 24 Feb (DE, BN, JO), and at Post Office Canyon 28 Dec (banded R. Scholes). Of the three longspur species known for New Mexico, Lapland is the scarcest; this season produced several Laplands from the ne. as well as one w. to Los Lunas 10 & 23 Jan (BZ, DE) and 1–2 at E.B.L. 11–12 Dec (JP, ph. JO).

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES

Northerly N. Cardinals were two each at Santa Rosa 26 Feb (CR) and Macho Cr. 26 Jan (CU). Northerly Pyrrhuloxias included singles at Cerrillos, *Santa Fe*, 18 Feb and later (AF), Santa Rosa 19 Dec (WW), and Sumner Dam 26 Feb (CR) plus 1–2 at Bosque Redondo 24 Dec–16 Jan (JD, JO, NV). Very late was a male Lazuli Bunting at Socorro 12 Dec (PB). Eastern Meadowlarks wintered n. to Albuquerque's West Mesa, with one 19 Dec (NV), three 20 Jan (WH), and two singing 27 Feb (BV). The three **Rusty Blackbirds** at Bosque N.W.R. 12 Dec (JO) were likely Nov holdovers; far w. was a male in the Animas Valley 1 Jan (JD, ph. JO). The winter status of Com. Grackles in New Mexico is complicated by confusion with Great-taileds and by lackadaisical reporting; notably n. were ≤16 at Clayton 29 Dec–2 Jan (CR, W. Cook) and one at Percha 9 Jan (DE, BN), while one at Ft. Sumner 26 Feb (CR) was presumably early. Three–four Bronzed Cowbirds at Las Cruces 18 Dec and 8 Jan (ph. JO) furnished the only report. Remarkable for the season were 459 Brown-headeds at Clayton 29 Dec (CR), while one at Albuquerque 27 Feb (BV) was early.

Certainly unexpected was an apparent ad. male **Bullock's Oriole** described from Montoya, *Quay*, 8 Jan (O. Kolkmann). Rosy-Finches caused excitement at Sandia Crest, where a mixed flock of some 80 Blacks, Gray-crowneds, and Brown-cappeds were present 5 Dec–21 Jan (DE, CR et al.); opinions varied sharply on species proportions. Another flock at Taos Ski Valley 26 Dec (JD, JO) contained 60 Blacks, 10 Brown-cappeds, and two Gray-crowneds (including one Hepburn's). The few Red Crossbills were restricted to the Zuni and Sandia Mts. Pine Siskins were relatively common in the w. but were scarce in other areas, including Albuquerque; nevertheless, moderate numbers were on 13 CBCs. Lesser Goldfinches normally are replaced by Am. Goldfinches in winter in New Mexico, but this season found Lessers overwintering in larger numbers and farther n. than usual, including up to 10 at Corrales all winter (WH et al.) and one at

Eldorado 2 Jan–3 Feb (BF, DF); Lessers were on 13 CBCs n. to Farmington, Española, Santa Fe, and Las Vegas, and they outnumbered Americans at Caballo, Las Cruces and the Peloncillo Mts. A bright male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** at Caballo Dam 4 Feb (LM) provided the state's first record since 1997.

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Winter 1999–2000 showed no weather pattern continuities and was simply odd. Following a mild, protracted, and relatively storm-free second half to the fall, early December had little snow accumulation and slowly dropping daily temperatures. It was not until the CBC season that cold extremes fell upon the Region. For the entire season, it was only the last twenty days of December that resembled something close to "normal" winter conditions. The remainder of the season, at least south of the Alaska Range, vacillated between all forms of extremes, most notably and often in immediate succession, rain (sometimes heavy), then snow and refreezing, and subzero to 40°F. The jet stream apparently shifted several times in the season to an extreme oblique north-south axis and shoved moist and warm North Pacific flows into the Region, fondly dubbed by meterologists the "pineapple express." Most surprising were the extreme cold conditions across the central and western Aleutians, which for several weeks were considerably cooler than the Gulf Coast. What affect this had on winter bird distribution was, as is the norm, difficult to assess, especially because these extreme conditions commenced after migration ended. There were near-record numbers of Gulf Coast raptors, including owls, and above-average numbers of less-than-annual waterbirds were recorded. Winter coverage in the Region continues to expand as we venture farther afield and spend more time scouting the potentially productive and milder coastal "oases."

Abbreviations: ABO (*Alaska Bird Observatory*); North Gulf (*North Gulf of Alaska*); SE (*Southeast Alaska*); SC (*Southcoastal Alaska*); SW (*South-west Alaska*); UCI (*Upper Cook Inlet*); Y-K Delta (*Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas*).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Observers in SE produced exceptional winter concentrations of Pac. Loons, notably 500+ mainly in Ward Cove near Ketchikan 18 Dec–8 Jan (SCH) and 338 around Auke Bay in Juneau 25–26 Dec (new local recod, GVV). About average for SE were single Pied-billed Grebes at Ketchikan 28 Dec (AWP) and offshore at Klawock on Prince of Wales I. 10 Feb (RLS, DWS, AWP). One each of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses turned up inshore at Kodiak 15 Jan (RB) and 7 Jan (JB, RAM†). The Laysan was close to the site of last year's first local winter find, while the Black-footed was the Archipelago's first mid-winter record. Rare anywhere inshore after November, two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were located on the Kodiak CBC 26 Dec (DZ). Heinl continues to produce winter **Brandt's Cormorants** in the Ketchikan area, this year with a new winter record high 15 among cormorant flocks in Revillagigedo Channel south of Ketchikan 11 Feb (SCH, RLS, DWS et al.). He wonders if these Ketchikan area birds are related to the species' documented expansion into n. areas of the Queen Charlotte Islands (see Campbell et al. 1990, *Birds of British Columbia*). Winter westward-dispersing Great Blue Herons peaked at 16+ around Kodiak's bays through the season (RAM et al.).

Casual in SE in winter were three Emperor Geese in the Sitka area 23–30 Dec (MLW ph., MET). Observers identified a **Cackling (Canada) Goose**, a casual winter visitor at best, with wintering *fulva* 8–10 Feb at Craig on Prince of Wales Island (RLS, DWS). Juneau birders distinguished a *parvipes* wintering with Canadas there 5 Feb (GVV, PS), another unique winter find. Forty-six Trumpeter Swans in one flock on Prince of Wales I.'s Big Salt L. 8 Feb was an exceptional offshore count for SE. SE's expanding winter Trumpeter populations are basically turning up at nearly all viable open-water habitats, of which there is plenty on Prince of Wales Island. The diversity of noteworthy casual waterfowl this winter was about normal, but numbers of those present were high. Highlights included a single N. Shoveler at Kodiak 20 Jan (RAM); a hardy drake Green-winged Teal that spent the season in a 20 ft. × 30 ft. patch of spring-fed creek in Anchorage (m.ob.); and unusual counts of 25+ and six Green-wingeds near Klawock, Prince of Wales Island 8 Feb+ (AWP, RLS, DWS) and at Sitka 5 Dec–Feb (MLW, MET) respectively ; 11 Canvasbacks, less than annual in SE, in a group in the same Klawock estuarine lagoons 8–9 Feb (AWP, RLS, DWS); and groups of six, nine and *30+* Ring-necked Ducks at Ketchikan Dec to mid-Jan (AWP, SCH), Kodiak 26 Dec–Feb (SES, RAM), and Sitka all season (MLW, MET). About average numbers of Lesser Scaup wintered, with one in Anchorage all season (m.ob.) and a maxima of 8 at Kodiak 12 Dec (RAM) being the most notable. Single Steller's and King Eiders were again located in Seward's Resurrection Bay 30 Dec+ (RLS, et al.). Ketchikan's fish-processing plants concentrated diving ducks along the waterfront, highlighted by 1300+ Long-tailed Ducks 11 Feb (SCH), nearly twice the winter average. Good Hooded Merganser counts came in from suitable SE habitats, including peaks of seven each at Juneau 13 Dec (RJG) and Klawock on Prince of Wales I. (AWP, RLS, DWS), and eight near Ketchikan 22 Jan (MAW).

Perhaps more than any other group, raptors wintered in exceptional numbers, although observers made no indication about prey populations. Mainly at Kodiak, where accurate estimates were limited by a lack of observer coverage, grassland species were nearly ubiquitous, highlighted by at least a dozen N. Harriers 26 Dec through Feb and 15+ Rough-legged Hawks all season

(RAM et al.). Other raptor notables included two Red-tailed Hawks all season near Ketchikan, where they are not annual in winter (SCH, AWP), and a male **American Kestrel** around Kodiak 27 Dec–24 Jan+ (ph. RAM), a 2nd local winter record and one of few from the Region. Two imm. Red-tailed Hawks near Juneau 24 Dec (GVV, PS) were likely late migrants.

COOTS THROUGH ALCIDS

Two December Am. Coots in the Ketchikan boat harbor were presumably late migrants and not refound (SCH), while up to five spent 1 Dec–1 Feb at Sitka (MLW, MET), the season's only account. Given the generally mild conditions, prominent shorebird finds and concentrations were surprisingly few. Kodiak birders tallied that area's highest ever Black Oystercatcher count, a roost of 318 on 20 Dec (RAM, m.ob.) while two Sanderlings 23 Dec in Ketchikan, where there is limited shorebird substrate, were that site's first in winter (ph. AWP). Gibson turned up two hardy **nominate Common Snipe** at Shemya 29 Jan–2 March (DDG*), the Region's first-ever winter record for this Palearctic form that is otherwise a common migrant in the w. Aleutians. The temperate winter did accommodate gulls, however, including several Dec Bonaparte's Gulls, three in Ketchikan to 18 Dec (SCH) and a single at Juneau 12 Dec (GVV). Another imm. stayed all season at Kodiak (ph. RAM), one of the Region's few ever for winter and a first for the Kodiak Is. Thayer's Gulls are uncommon and inconsistent winter visitors in SE and casual further n. into the North Gulf, so this season's counts of 100+ at Juneau's Eagle Beach 17 Jan (GVV) and another 2–4 around Kodiak all season (DWS, RAM) were beyond average. Considerably more significant, a first-winter *glaucoides* **Iceland Gull**, accidental for Alaska, was described from Kodiak 26 Dec–14 Feb (ph. DWS, RAM). The Ketchikan gull flocks attracted the winter's only Slaty-backed Gull 4–31 Dec (SCH, AWP, both ph.), the first there since 1997, and a pure Western Gull, an adult, 8 Jan–21 Feb (AWP, SCH†). With Heinl's coverage over the past decade, Ketchikan has become the Region's key site for rare and odd-date gulls.

Alcid highlights were on inshore counts. Herring aggregations attracted Com. Murres near Juneau in Jan, with a new winter-high 500+ on the 4th (GVV), while Ketchikan's Nichols Passage had a Marbled Murrelet consolidation of 500 on 11 Feb (SCH, AWP). Others out of typical winter habitats included a first-winter Rhinoceros Auklet at Ketchikan 6 Feb (SCH, AWP, TG), where previously unrecorded, and a Horned Puffin at Kodiak 26 Dec (ph. DWS).

OWLS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

As with the diurnal raptors, owls made winter news across the Region. At least three N. Pygmy-Owls around Juneau 12 Dec–6 Feb (PS, GVV, RJG) and another 3+ scattered between Ketchikan and Prince of Wales I. 8–10 Feb (RLS, DWS) were about average for the past decade. A semblance of a Great Gray Owl irruption commenced in January, when one was noted near *Juneau* 13 Jan–7 Feb+ (RJG, et al.), one of SE's few ever and Juneau's first. Another surfaced along Anchorage's coastal trail 11 Feb (CE, DWS, RP, GB) and was joined by at least one other in the same area through Feb. Numbers grew in the Anchorage area to higher peaks into late March. Two Great Grays were reported in Fairbanks, also from Feb–Mar (*fide* ABO/DDG, ND). Great Gray reports have been predictably consistent through the years, so at least the coastal reports are quite unusual. Perhaps most significant were this winter's Short-eared Owl summaries, highlighted by two in Anchorage 25 Feb–Mar (DWS), about the 4th UCI winter report, and a single in Ketchikan 14 Dec that was presumably a tardy migrant (*fide* SCH). A virtual horde of Short-eareds overwintered in the Kodiak grasslands, with a maximum of *20+* from 30 Dec+ (RAM et al.). The Kodiak numbers, considered conservative estimates, constituted the Region's highest-ever winter tally. A Boreal Owl carcass found in the *Ketchikan* area 28 Feb (BH, JB, *fide* SCH) furnished only that area's 3rd record. Casual especially off the Mainland in SE in winter, these secretive Taiga breeders are probably more regular than records indicate.

TURDIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Surprisingly, given the mild season, only one Townsend's Solitaire was turned up, at Juneau 2–19 Feb (SW). A single Hermit Thrush near Sitka 3–7 Dec (MLW, MET) followed the past few years' pattern of tardy out-migrants. American Robins were widespread, if only in limited numbers, and UCI again had a least a dozen scattered between Eagle River and s. Anchorage (m.ob.). Anchorage's now resident N. Mockingbird, present in downtown neighborhoods since Aug 1998, wintered again (m.ob.). A Fox Sparrow wintered at an Anchorage feeder 12 Dec–mid-Jan+ (*fide* DFD), UCI's 4th in winter. Fox Sparrow numbers were otherwise at or slightly below average in SE. This year's coastal White-throated Sparrows included two at Ketchikan 18 Dec–11 Feb+ (SCH, AWP, TG), and singles at Juneau 12 Dec–15 Jan+ (PS) and Kodiak all season (RAM). Snow Buntings appeared in UCI again in *early Feb*, including seven on 2 Feb in Anchorage (RLS), a "large flock" in Palmer, and a dozen in Eagle River 5 Feb (*fide* RLS, BM). This timing is nearly a month earlier than historic spring arrivals, so these birds must have wintered in the Region. The season's only extralimital McKay's Bunting, a lone bird, turned up with Snow Buntings at Seward 30 Dec (RLS). This Beringian form remains casual e. of the Alaska Peninsula.

Blackbirds went mostly undetected after Dec. The single first-year male Red-winged Blackbird that lingered at a Girdwood feeder in UCI 2–30 Dec+ (*fide* RLS, TT) provided one of few UCI winter finds and the Region's only report. Kodiak feeders supported a single Brambling 23 Dec–Feb (RAM, SD, ph. JD), also the season's only report. Casual in the Region, an adult **Evening Grosbeak** found a Juneau feeder 12 Jan–13 Feb+ (BD, GU, MWS et al.). After a rash of winter reports in SE in the 1970s, there have been few records from the Region since. Alaska's finches were essentially gone from the Region this winter. Redpolls were hard enough to find that some observers actually reported individual flocks through the season. Nowhere were redpolls common, except perhaps in the Fairbanks area, while both crossbill species went nearly unreported. This winter's finch summaries represented perhaps the lowest population estimates for the Region in decades.

Cited observers: Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (v.t.) referenced are on file at University of Alaska Museum. C. Adler, J. Ainsworth, J. B. Allen, C. Anderson, R. Armstrong, J. Ball, P. Bartley, K. D. Bell, R. Berns, J. Blackburn, B. Blush, M. Brown, G. Bullock, B. Daugherty, D. F. Delap, N. DeWitt, J. Doyle, S. Doyle, L. Edfelt, G. Etherington, D. D. Gibson, R. E. Gill, R. J. Gordon, T. Goucher, S. C. Heinl, B. Hunt, M. Jefferson, J. F. Koerner, R. A. MacIntosh, B. J. McCaffery, C. McIntyre, L. McKinnon, B. Myers, L. J. Oakley, R. Pintner, A. W. Piston, M. Resoff, B. Rowe, D. Russell, L. Sanborn, S. Savage, R. L. Scher, M. W. Schwan, M. Schwitters, N. Senner, S. E. Senner, W. Shuster, D. W. Sonneborn, S. Springer, D. Stokes, P. Suchanek, M. E. Tedin, K. Titus, G. Utermohle, G. Van Vliet, S. Wallen, M. Walsh, M. L. Ward, S. Wellborn, J. Williams, M. A. Wood, S. Zimmerman.

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Meteorologists had predicted another extremely wet winter with some colder temperatures for good measure. Fortunately for those living in the Region, temperatures were close to average, and precipitation, though above normal, was well shy of last winter's dreary record. Indeed, the lack of any hard freezes or significant snow made winter seem mild westside, and the eastside was also milder than usual. Trends this winter were few, with the most notable being a suite of highly unusual lingering birds in se. Washington, including Western Tanager, Common Yellowthroat, Anna's Hummingbird, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Least Sandpiper. Winter pelagic birding continued to yield more than its share of rarities, including Short-tailed and Shy Albatrosses. Finally, and happily, the parade of rarities of 1999 continued through the winter, including Washington's first Arctic Loon and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. *(Fern Ridge Reservoir, Lane)*; R.N.W.R. *(Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark)*; W.W.R.D. *(Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla)*; Y.R.D. *(Yakima R. delta, Benton WA)*. Eastside and westside = east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A tally of 2000 Red-throated Loons at Deception Pass, *Island*, 26 Feb may represent a Regional winter record (B. Bell); one at Priest Rapids Res., *Grant/Yakima*, 5–6 Feb was on the eastside, where less-than-annual (PtS, GT). Washington's first **Arctic Loon** was at Priest Rapids Res. 16 Jan+ (AS, †DG, †H.&J.A. MacKenzie, †BW, †KB, †R. Lawson, †E. Hunn, vt. SM); it provided one of few North American records away from Alaska and the first inland. Yellow-billed Loons at Wallowa L., *Wallowa*, 12–13 Feb (CC, JS) and Priest Rapids Res. 12 Feb (BTw) were on the eastside, where extremely rare. Westside Yellow-billeds had an average showing, with singles at Port Orford, *Curry*, 30 Dec (CD, NW), Sequim Bay, *Clallam*, 5 Jan–10 Feb (GK), and Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson*, 22 Feb (SP,JF). Fifteen Clark's Grebes (ten in w. OR, five in w. WA) were 2–3 × the normal winter total. A research cruise off the Oregon coast on 13 Dec yielded a Regional record 94 Laysan Albatross, up from 70 last year, and a **Short-tailed Albatross** ±21 nmi off *Curry*, about the 5th for Oregon and 7th for the Region during the last 50 years (†MF). Other Laysans included seven off Depoe Bay 5 Feb (GG), six off Westport 22 Jan (TRW), and one riding a ship into Charleston Harbor, *Coos*, 21 Dec (*fide* D. van Dyke). The *Procellariiform* of the season, however, was the Region's 3rd **Shy Albatross** off Wesport 22 Jan (†BTw, †BL, ph. J. Powell); previous records are from the Quillayte R. mouth 1 Sep 1951 and at Heceta Bank 5 Oct 1996 (Mlodinow 1999, *Birders J.* 8:131–141; see Cole's lead paper). A N. Fulmar, rarely seen from land, was off Heceta Head, Lane, 20 Dec (R. Robb). A **Mottled Petrel** ±14 nmi off Cape Blanco 13 Dec is only about the 11th Regional record of a live bird, all Dec–Apr (MF). Two Am. White Pelicans wintered at F.R.R. (m. ob.), one was at Portland 20 Feb (P. Osburn), and another was in the vicinity of R.N.W.R. 27 Jan–19 Feb (RK, EA); they are rare on the westside but seem to be increasing and occurring year round. On the eastside they are fairly common breeders but rare during winter; this winter more than usual were present: two at Y.R.D. 1 Dec–17 Jan, eight at Two Rivers Co. Park, *Benton*, 21 Jan (BW, DR), and three at Vernita Bridge, *Grant*, 6 Feb (BF). Despite cooler ocean temperatures, Brown Pelicans were again reported in numbers: six at Charleston 5 Dec and one 15 Dec (TR); seven at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, 2 Dec and three there 26 Dec (PP); and one at Dungeness Spit, Clallam, 21 Feb (*fide* BN).

Great Egret numbers seemed higher than usual with a maximum of 70 at F.R.R. 27 Dec (S. McDonald); singles at Sunnyside W.M.A., *Yakima*, 23 Jan–20 Feb (*fide* B. Marshall), near Selah, *Yakima*, 3–8 Jan (DG), and in *Snohomish*, throughout period (DB, DD) provided records for e. Washington and the Puget Sound, where rare during winter. Cattle Egrets appeared in near-normal numbers in Dec, but survived for an unusually long duration, with two at Myrtle Pt., *Coos*, 3 Dec–8 Jan (DL,KC), one at Scappoose Bottoms, *Columbia*, OR, 6–31 Dec (RK), one near Salem, Marion, 11 Dec+ (J. Lundsten), one at Woodland, *Cowlitz*, 15 Dec–25 Jan (EA), and perhaps the same bird at R.N.W.R. 4 Feb (R. Morgan). Out-of-place Black-crowned Night-Herons were near Port Townsend, *Jefferson*, WA, 18 Dec–20 Jan (R. Wagner) and at Newport, *Lincoln* (*fide* R. Bayer); they are local on the westside. More Turkey Vultures than normal wintered in Oregon. One at Seattle 28 Jan provided a rare mid-winter record for Washington; returning birds were widespread by mid-Feb on the westside (*fide* D. McRae).

Emperor Geese staged a minor invasion, with one at Clatsop Spit, *Clatsop*, 18 Dec (MP), two at Winchester Bay, *Douglas*, 22 Dec (MD), one at Keystone, Island, 30 Dec (KK), one at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, 5 Jan+ (R. Hoffman), and three at Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook*, 18 Dec (J. Harding), with two remaining there until the end of the period (C. Roberts); about three per winter is typical for the Region. Ross's Geese are rare but ever increasing in Washington and w. Oregon. Single white-morph birds were at Sauvie I., *Multnomah*, 6 Dec (RK), Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, OR, 15 Dec+ (L. Fitts), R.N.W.R. 16–19 Dec (D. Friesz, TA), and McNary N.W.R., *Walla Walla*, 11 Feb (MD,MLD). Additionally, a blue morph was reported without details from Sauvie I., 19 Dec+ (RK) and at nearby R.N.W.R. 15–23 Jan (PtS); they are exceptionally rare in the Region away from *Klamath*. Intermittent reports of a single Black Brant from Sauvie I., R.N.W.R. and Woodland may all refer to the same individual (M. LaFaive, RK, D. Friesz); Brant are rare away from saltwater. Additionally, four in *Yamhill* 30 Dec were that county's first (T. Love). Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to increase, as evidenced by 610 near Bow, *Skagit*, 10 Jan (SM). Nine Eurasian Green-winged Teal and three hybrid Eur. × Am. (all from the westside) were treble the recent norm; this increase is likely due in part to increased observer effort. A Mallard × N.

Pintail was at McNary N.W.R. 2 Feb (MD, MLD). A Tufted Duck at Warrenton, *Clatsop*, 14 Jan was about the 27th for Oregon (†T. Thornton), while another near Stevenson, *Skamania*, was about the 40th for Washington (WC). A count of 350 Black Scoters at Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, 23 Jan is one of the highest Regional tallies (PaS). The only eastside Long-tailed Duck report came from Wanapum Dam, *Kittitas*, 29 Jan–12 Feb (P. Mattocks). A Barrow's Goldeneye was near Coos Bay, *Coos*, 19 Dec (DL); they are rare on the s. Oregon coast.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

An Osprey near Madras, *Jefferson*, 19 Feb provided an extremely rare winter eastside record (T. Bray), while singles at Woodland, *Cowlitz*, 15 Jan (PtS), Alton Baker Park, *Lane*, 11–29 Jan (*fide* TM), and Kent, *King*, 10 Feb (R. Orness) were in areas where rare in winter; Ospreys are somewhat regular winter visitors only to extreme s. Oregon. Eight Red-shouldered Hawks in w.-cen. and nw. OR and two in sw. WA are historically excellent counts but are about average for the last five years. The Washington records were both from R.N.W.R., an imm. 2 Dec–22 Jan (†TA, JE) and an ad. 19 Feb (BL). A Ferruginous Hawk near Dallesport, *Klickitat*, 29 Jan provided an extremely rare winter record for Washington (D. Brown). Eleven Gyrfalcons, an above-normal winter total, included two from Oregon: Amity, *Yamhill*, 18 Jan (W. Matthewson) and near Corvallis, *Benton*, 29 Jan (PV, M. Cutler). Prairie Falcons at Samish Flats, *Skagit*, Fir I., *Skagit*, and near Snohomish, *Snohomish*, represented a better-than-average winter for w. Washington (KA, DD). A Sora at Two Rivers Co. Park, *Benton*, 18 Dec (DR) and another at Wallula, *Walla Walla*, 2 Jan (BTw, CC) were likely the first for winter on the eastside. Two Sandhill Cranes were near Stanwood, *Snohomish*, 18 Dec–29 Jan (GT, S. Terry), rare during winter in n. Washington.

Surveys revealed 26 Snowy Plovers at Leadbetter Point, *Pacific*, and 15 at Midway Beach, *Grays Harbor*, 25 Jan, about the same as last winter (D. Jaques, J. Dragon, D. Williamson). Oregon's 8th **Mountain Plover**, first found in Nov, remained throughout at Dunes Overlook, *Douglas* (DL, AC). Now almost annual during winter in Oregon, a Lesser Yellowlegs was at F.R.R. 1–2 Jan (D. Bailey). Long-billed Curlews, rare away from the coast during winter, were near Eugene, *Lane*, 4 Jan (S. Maulding) and along 7 Mile Lane, *Linn*, 10 Jan (J. Fleischer). A Marbled Godwit was near Sequim, *Clallam*, 11–20 Dec (BN); they are less-than annual away from the outer coast during winter. Rare winter Red Knots were found at Dungeness Bay, *Clallam*, 20 Dec (GGe, PtS, J. Acker) and Fort Flagler, *Jefferson*, throughout the period (NB). Sanderlings are unusual in the Willamette Valley, so one at R.N.W.R. 29 Jan was noteworthy (K. Knittle). Three Least Sandpipers, 30 Dunlins, and three Long-billed Dowitchers, all rare during winter in e. Washington, overwintered at Y.R.D. (BW). Eight more Leasts were at Potholes Canal, *Franklin*, 21 Feb (BF). Additional Dunlin sightings included 117 at W.W.R.D. 31 Dec–2 Jan (MD, MLD), 200 at W.W.R.D. 21 Feb (BF), 57 at Moses L., *Grant*, 17 Jan (BF), and 20 at Potholes Canal, *Franklin*, 21 Feb (BF); the previous e. Washington winter record was 70 at Y.R.D. 1 Jan 1982 (Paulson 1993, *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*). Another eastside Long-billed Dowitcher was at Moses L., *Grant*, 17 Jan (BF). A Short-billed Dowitcher was on the Coquille Valley CBC, 2 Jan (*fide* AC); they are nearly annual during winter. A Red Phalarope was near Vashon I., *Pierce*, 18 Dec (BL); they are rare during winter and very rare anytime in the Puget Sound. A Parasitic Jaeger off Oregon 13 Dec provided an extremely rare winter record (MF). Western Washington's 4th winter **Franklin's Gull** was near Sequim 4 Dec (A. Knue, Mdo), while e. Washington's 2nd was at W.W.R.D. 24 Feb (MD, MLD). For the 10th consecutive winter a Little Gull was at American L., *Pierce*, 17 Dec–13 Jan (PtS). Heermann's Gulls, though not particularly numerous this fall, lingered late again this winter at *Coos* Bay 19 Dec (*fide* TR); Orcas I. and Shaw I., *San Juan*, 15 Jan (SM, GR, RR); Tacoma, *Pierce*, 18 Dec–27 Feb (BL,MDo); and Edmonds, *Snohomish*, 1 Dec–30 Jan (DD). An impressive congregation of 3370 Mew Gulls ±20 mi inland at Monroe, *Snohomish*, 21 Dec emphasizes the importance of farmland to this species (SM, DD). An **Iceland Gull** at Tacoma, 8–24 Jan, was about Washington's 8th and the first adult (ph. GR, RR, †BL). Long overdue, the Region's first **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was at W.W.R.D. 6 Feb–3 Mar (†MD, MLD, ph. J. Nestler). Washington's 5th **Slaty-backed Gull**, first found in Nov, remained at Tacoma until 6 Feb (BL, ph. MDo). Despite the spate of rare large gulls, Glaucous Gulls occurred in poor numbers, with only 22 reported. An unidentified **Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelet** ±20 nmi off *Curry* 13 Dec was probably a Xantus's and furnished one of few winter reports from the Region of this species pair (MF)—Xantus's is annual during fall (Jul–Oct), but there are no accepted Regional records of Craveri's.

DOVES TO TANAGERS

As is true for much of the country, **Eurasian Collared-Doves** continue to make news in Washington and Oregon. Finally, Washington received its first report—a bird seen well at Spokane, *Spokane*, 2 Jan (†M. Houston, G. Kuiper, L. Hagen). Additionally, the photograph of a bird seen at College Place, Walla Walla, 11 Jan 1996 also recently came to light (*WOSNews* 65:7). Though not definitive, it is suggestive of the species. In Oregon, a flyby was reported from Oregon City, *Clackamas*, 23 Dec (†R. Fergus); if accepted, it will furnish a 3rd record, the first two coming from Portland in May 1998 and Fields, *Harney*, in June 1999. For an excellent summary of this species' expansion across North America, see Romagosa and McEneaney (1999, *N. Am. Birds* 53:348–353).

It was another poor winter for Snowy Owls, with only five reports: near Moses L., *Grant*, 15 Dec–19 Feb (BF); near Harrington, *Lincoln*, 15 Jan (JA); Terrace Heights, *Yakima*, 12 Feb (M. Sundquist); near Davenport, *Lincoln*, 15 Feb (JA); and near Ellensburg, *Kittitas*, in Feb (*fide* AS). A Northern Hawk Owl near Chelan, *Chelan*, 30 Dec–5 Jan, was about the 11th for Washington (M.&D. Spencer); most have been late Nov–late Feb. Single Burrowing Owls were at Bayocean Spit, *Tillamook*, 18 Dec (J. Harding) and near Salem, *Marion*, throughout winter (SD), an average winter total for w. Oregon. A Great Gray Owl near Springfield, 24–26 Jan, provided only the 2nd lowland *Lane* record (*fide* TM), while one near Pullman, *Whitman*, 29 Feb, was also at an unusual location (MK). Anna's Hummingbirds in Bend, *Deschutes*, 3 Feb (D. Tracy, J. Williamson) and Yakima, *Yakima*, 10 Dec+ (DG) provided rare eastside winter records. The Grants Pass, *Josephine*, **Costa's Hummingbird** returned for its 4th winter 17 Dec (DV); there are only about eight other winter records. An Allen's Hummingbird at New R., *Coos*, 9 Feb was about two weeks early (TR). A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Bend, *Deschutes*, 30 Jan (J. Lear); they are rare in winter away from *Klamath*. A hybrid Red-naped × Red breasted Sapsucker was at R.N.W.R. 19 Dec, where Red-napeds would be unusual at any season (†TA). A Black Phoebe at Milwaukie 2 Jan+ was n. of that species' usual range and was a *Clackamas* first (T. Ewert, M. Kay). Four Say's Phoebes in w. Oregon represents a typ-

ical winter's total: near Corvallis, *Benton*, 22 Dec (*fide* T. Bray); near Silverton, Marion, 26 Dec (SD); near Salem 1 Jan (PaS); Basket Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 12 Feb (PV). One at Asotin Slough, *Asotin*, 2 Jan, provided a rare mid-winter record for e. Washington (MK).

There were only three Blue Jays this winter: Twickenham, *Wheeler*, early Dec (L. Belknap), Sisters, *Deschutes*, throughout period (SS), and Tampico, *Yakima*, 10 Nov–31 Jan (DG). Two W. Scrub-Jays were at Prineville, *Crook*, throughout (D. Tracy, J. Williamson) and one was at Marysville, *Snohomish*, 20–21 Feb (DB)—more signs of this species' continuing expansion. A wayward Black-billed Magpie, found last fall at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, remained until 25 Jan (BB). Despite the mild winter, relatively few migrants seemed to linger on the westside. The exception was swallows. A smattering of Tree Swallows were present throughout w. OR and sw. WA all winter, but one at American L., *Pierce*, 27 Dec, was farther n. and somewhat more unusual (JE). Two Violet-green Swallows were in Port Orford, Curry, 1 Jan, and six were along Euchre Creek, *Curry*, 20 Jan (NW). Barn Swallows were reported from six w. Oregon locations. In Washington, where rare during winter, Barn Swallows were at R.N.W.R. 1–25 Jan; American Lake 27 Dec (JE); Everett, *Snohomish*, 24 Feb (DB); and Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, 23 Feb (S. Nord). Western Bluebirds are rare in w. Washington during winter and on the Olympic Peninsula at any season, so six in *Clallam* 11 Feb and 11 at Squamish Harbor, *Jefferson*, 18 Dec were noteworthy (M. Milzac, S. Downes). Northern Mockingbird reports were near normal, with five from sw. Oregon and one from w.-cen. Oregon. An Am. Pipit was near Desert Aire, *Grant*, 12 Feb (BTw); they are rare in winter in e. Washington.

Nine Orange-crowned Warblers on the eastside near Toppenish, *Yakima*, 19 Dec set a Regional record high count for winter (MD, MLD); since winter birds are much rarer on the eastside, this record is particularly unexpected. A Nashville Warbler, rare in winter, was at Bandon, *Coos*, 1–5 Jan (CD, DL, KC). Palm Warblers are uncommon on the outer coast during winter but rare elsewhere; this winter one returned to Portland for its second winter 19 Dec+ (J. Cornelius), and singles were at Everett 28 Jan+ (D. Beaudette) and at Port Orchard, *Kitsap*, 31 Dec (PtS). Wilson's Warblers were at Port Orford 30 Dec (CD, NW), Seattle 1 Jan (†BS), Renton, *King*, 16 Feb (C. Haynie), Blanchard, *Skagit*, 20 Feb (S. Wechsler), and Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, 26 Feb (S. Dang); they are normally rare during winter, especially as late as Feb. Four Com. Yellowthroats for Oregon was an average winter total: at Millacoma Marsh, *Coos* (TR), s. Marion (SD), Brownsmead, *Clatsop* (MP), and Sauvie I. (P. Osburn). Singles at Everett 19 Feb (DB) and Seattle 26 Feb (J. Chapman) were in w. Washington, where rare during winter; rarer yet, one at Lost I., *Franklin*, 17 Jan provided e. Washington's first winter record (DR). A **Western Tanager** along Mill Creek Rd., *Walla Walla*, 10 Dec was likely also an e. Washington winter first (MD, MLD).

SPARROWS THROUGH REDPOLLS

American Tree Sparrows, rare in w. Oregon, at Fayetteville, *Linn*, 21 Dec+ (GG) and near Canby, *Clackamas*, 2–9 Feb (E. Specht) were noteworthy. Another was at Miller I., *Klamath*, 15 Jan+ in se. Oregon (KS). A Chipping Sparrow, rare but regular during winter, was near Albany, *Linn*, 27 Dec (M. Cutler). The regional boom in Clay-colored Sparrow reports continued this winter with singles at Millacoma Marsh, *Coos*, 2 Dec+ (TR); near Tillamook Bay, *Tillamook*, 18 Dec (*fide* OS); near Albany 26 Dec (M. Cutler); Sauvie I. 31 Dec–12 Feb (M. Marsh); and Brookings, *Curry*, 8 Jan (DM). There are only about 30 previous winter records. A rare winter Lark Sparrow was at Salem, *Marion*, 18 Dec (K. Sparkman). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at Walla Walla 14 Jan (MD, MLD); they are rare Jan–Mar in e. Washington. Sixteen Swamp Sparrows reported from w. Oregon and eight from w. Washington is about normal, but one at Bend, *Deschutes*, 2 Jan (CM, MM) was on the eastside, where not annual. White-throated Sparrows were again present in above-average numbers, with 31 reported from Washington and an Oregon maximum of 11 at Millacoma Marsh, *Coos*, (TR). Harris's Sparrow reports were about average, with seven from Oregon and eight from Washington. Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows occurred in below-normal numbers in w. Washington, but *pugetensis* White-crowneds were abnormally common (SM), perhaps a reflection of the relatively bland weather. A total of 258 Golden-crowned Sparrows near Vancouver, *Clark*, 30 Dec likely provided a Washington record (TA). Oregon's 5th **Painted Bunting** was a male photographed at an Idlewild, *Douglas*, feeder during Christmas week (T. Walker); previous records are from Jun and Oct in se. Oregon and from late Nov in sw. Oregon (Gilligan et al. 1994, *Birds of Oregon*).

A Bobolink at Graysmarsh, *Clallam*, 20–21 Dec furnished the 2nd Regional winter record (†S. Atkinson, ph. RS), the first coming from *Coos* 10 Dec 1979 (Contreras 1998, *Birds of Coos County, Oregon*); there are few winter records from anywhere in North America. A count of 300 Tricolored Blackbirds at Lower Klamath N.W.R. mid-Jan+ was exceptional (KS). A tally of 91 W. Meadowlarks at R.N.W.R. 19 Dec was excellent for Washington during winter (JE). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at F.R.R. 28 Dec (A. Asche, M. Mafia), but they are rare during winter on the westside. A **Hooded Oriole** in Brookings, *Curry*, 29 Dec provided only about the 7th Oregon winter record (K. Goldwater). The Com. Redpoll influx of Nov tapered off somewhat through the winter. Reports from the westside, where rare, included 25+ near Santiam Flats/Detroit L., *Marion/Linn*, 5 Dec (SD), one at Elma, *Grays Harbor*, 5 Dec (PtS), and one in Eugene, *Lane*, 6–7 Jan (B. Combs). Peak eastside counts included 250 near Enterprise, *Wallowa*, 12 Dec (PaS). Single Hoary Redpolls were near Tonasket, *Okanogan*, 22 Dec (†GGe, †VN) and Winthrop, *Okanogan*, 1 Feb (†KB, B. Morse); there are about 10 previous Washington records.

ADDENDA

The following rarities were submitted without documentation: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Tricolored Blackbird (in Washington), Common Grackle, and Red Fox Sparrow.

Several highly unusual records from summer and fall 1999 have come to light. A **Mottled Petrel** found dead at Pacific, WA, 3 Jul, added to the impressive list of Apr–Aug 1999 vagrants from Beringia (C. Richardson, *Burke Museum). Three Glaucous Gulls at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 3 Jun were unprecedented for summer (PP, *Oregon Birds* 26:123–127). A **Northern Hawk Owl** at Stevens 16 Oct was only about the 10th for Washington, and the earliest ever by six days (†R. Roundy). Five pairs of **Gray-headed Juncoes** in Oregon Canyon, *Malheur*, 22 Jun, represented Oregon's 4th overall and first breeding record (MD, *Oregon Birds* 26:128–129).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Tom Aversa, Nigel Ball, David Beaudette, Bob Boekelheide, Keith Brady, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Michael Donahue, Collin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Bob Flores, Michael Force, Jim Flynn, George Gerdts (GGe), Greg Gillson, Denny Granstand, Kraig Kemper, Merlene Koliner, Gene Kridler, Ray Korpi, Bruce LaBar, David Lauten, Allison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Michael Patterson, Phil Pickering, Steve Pink, Gene Revelas, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Rick Romea (RR), Owen Schmidt, Stephen Shunk, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Bob Sundstrom, Greg Toffic, Paula Vanderhuel, Dennis Vroman, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Bob Woodley.

middle pacific coast

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For landbirds it was a mild and rather uneventful winter. Despite the warm temperatures, only a rather routine set of vagrants wintered, perhaps because eucalyptus and other exotics bloomed late (often not until January) in many coastal locales. There was no significant movement of winter finches or other irruptive species.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (*California Bird Records Committee*); C.V. (*Central Valley*); F.I. (*Southeast Farallon Island*); S.F. (*San Francisco*); N.M. (*National Monument*); N.S. (*National Seashore*); R.S. (*Regional Shoreline*); S.R. (*State Reserve*); W.A. (*Wildlife Area*). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published, including C.B.R.C. review species and claims of first county records.

GREBES THROUGH SHEARWATERS

Due to the lack of lakes and reservoirs in *Sutter*, *Aechmophorus* grebes have been recorded there only on a few occasions when the Sutter Bypass has been flooded (BED). This winter, one Western and ≤4 Clark's Grebes were at the Bypass from 15 & 25 Feb, respectively, into Mar (BED, TEa, m.ob.). The total of 4798 *Aechmophorus* on the Santa Cruz County CBC exemplified high coastal numbers in Dec–Jan (DLSu). Red-necked Grebes at L. Hennessey, *Napa*, 30 Dec (BDP) and Nicasio Res., *Marin*, 29 Feb (RS) were unusual at these somewhat inland locations. A **Short-tailed Albatross** near Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 8 Jan (DN) was the Region's 6th in the last six seasons, all juveniles. Laysan Albatrosses were unusually numerous offshore. A Regional record of 83 about 42 nmi w. of Klamath R. mouth, *Del Norte*, 13 Dec included a single flock of 65 feeding along a squall line (MFo). Counts of 25–30 Laysans at Cordell Bank 8 Jan (DN) and daily totals of 25–30 during 25–29 Feb ±30 nmi w. of FI, *San Francisco* (LSp, DGA), indicated consistently high numbers off our coast. A few were also recorded around Monterey Bay (ShJ), and one returned to Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino*, for its 5th winter, 4 Dec–12 Feb (D. Sierra, m.ob.).

Three Mottled Petrels ±42 nmi w. of Klamath R. mouth 13 Dec (MFo) were the first reported in the Region since Nov 1996, although this species is probably regular in late fall far offshore. After a near-record autumn, Flesh-footed Shearwaters were very scarce, with one off *Santa Cruz* 29 Jan (ShJ) providing the only report. A Manx Shearwater was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey*, 24 Feb (†JBo). This species has been reported from this locality on nearly an annual basis since the mid-1990s. Black-vented Shearwaters, nearly absent last fall, failed to show until 4 Feb, when 42 were on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* (ShJ). The general absence of this species this past fall and winter is related to the return of inshore cold water.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The only concentration of Cattle Egrets were 40 at Bethel I., *Contra Costa*, 26 Jan (FGB). Coastally, five were in *Humboldt*, one in *Mendocino*, two in *Marin*, and one in *Santa Cruz* 2 Dec–29 Feb (m.ob.). Coastal numbers have shown a sharp decline the past two winters. Nineteen White-faced Ibises over Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, 24 Dec (DLSu) was the only report along the coast; one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 6 Dec was very late (RE).

Approximately 200 Aleutian Canada Geese at the Yolo Bypass, *Yolo*, 19 Feb (RS, LLu, CLu) were a good number away from the n. coast but not unexpected given the recovery of this subspecies during the past decade. In contrast to last winter, this Season's only Trumpeter Swan was a well-described individual at *Del Norte's* Smith R. estuary 19 Dec (†DFx, †JCP). Fourteen Eur. Wigeons at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, all winter were about twice normal (RS, m.ob.). A Blue-winged Teal in nw. Mono Basin 17 Feb provided *Mono's* first winter record (B. Miller). A concentration of 10,000–12,000 *Aythya* ducks (mostly Lesser Scaup) at Sutter Bypass/Butte Slough included at least 137 Greater Scaup 15 Feb (C. Hawley, BED) and *Sutter's* first Tufted Duck 25 Feb–Mar (†TEa et al.). Reports of 12 other Tufted Ducks were almost evenly split between the interior and coast. A well-described Tufted × scaup hybrid was at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 8 Feb (†RE). Two Surf Scoters at Dechambeau ponds 8 Dec (L. Ford) were *Mono's* first since 1989 and the first in winter there. The bird of the season was California's second **Smew**, a difficult-to-locate adult male on the "Old River" at Tracy, *San Joaquin*, 20 Jan–29 Feb (E. deRusha, †T. Ronneberg, †WHo, m.ob.). A Red-breasted Merganser at Hensley L. 21 Feb was considered *Madera's* first confirmed record (†KVV).

Three Broad-winged Hawks was a good showing: an adult at College L., *Santa Cruz*, 1 Jan–14 Feb (DLSu) wintered, but imms. at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 4 Dec (RSTh) and in n. *Marin* 5 Dec (LLu, CLu) were probably migrants. A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk returned to Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz*, 11 Nov–5 Jan for its 2nd consecutive winter (m.ob.).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Coastal Sandhill Cranes were noted in *Marin*, *Sonoma*, and *Humboldt*. The last bird, near Shively 6–19 Dec (SWH, †DFX, BED, TWL), was suspected of being of the *tabida* race (Greater Sandhill Crane) and if so was highly unexpected. Sizable Mt. Plover flocks were

found in *Yolo*, with ≤100 present 29 Dec–2 Jan (J. King, L. Edson, m.ob.); *Solano*, with 50 seen 24 Jan (JSL); and *Stanislaus*, with 16 noted 16 Jan (JHG). One near Soledad, *Monterey*, 27 Dec was our only other reported (BHG). Three Black Oystercatchers at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, 22 Jan–5 Mar were rare so far s. in S.F. Bay (ADeM). Up to five Rock Sandpipers were at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino*, 2 Dec–27 Feb (DT, JRW, RS, GEC), while one another was at Wilder S.B., *Santa Cruz*, 18–28 Dec (R. Wolfe, DLSu). In *Santa Clara*, a Ruff at Sunnyvale 19 Dec (NL, M. Murphy) and Alviso 17 Jan (AJ) was thought to be the same one present in Nov. A rare winter Wilson's Phalarope was at Vic Fazio W.A., *Yolo*, 1 Feb (SCH).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

A count of 49 Pomarine Jaegers w. of Klamath R. mouth 13 Dec (MFo) provided a record high for winter, suggesting that at least some were late migrants. Our two "regular" Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued in *Santa Clara*, with the Alviso adult present to at least 3 Feb (AJ, SCR, NL) and the fourth-basic L. Cunningham bird present into Mar (m.ob.). A dark-mantled adult gull at Folsom L., *Placer*, 14–15 Feb (where any dark-mantled gull is unusual) showed characters of Slaty-backed Gull but unfortunately could not be studied at close range (BWb, JCS, TEa). Although there are no C.B.R.C.-accepted records for the Region, an adult gull well-photographed by Webb at the same location 5–6 Jan 1998 was probably this species. However, details of the wing pattern, critical to the conclusive identification of Slaty-backed Gull, were not seen on either bird.

High numbers of Glaucous Gulls (43), including *Butte's* first at the county landfill 16–17 Feb (BWb, JHS, †TDM), were reported for the 2nd consecutive winter. In a typical winter, the vast majority that reach our region are juveniles/first-winter birds, with only a handful of older birds. However, of the 38 for which age was reported this winter, half were second-year or older. The unusually high number and percentage of older birds suggests low productivity last summer and a strong southerly movement by older birds. Perhaps unusually warm Bering Sea conditions related to the mortality of other seabirds and low salmon populations over the past few years is affecting Glaucous Gull productivity in summer, while driving above-average numbers s. in winter.

At least two Caspian Terns were at several locations around Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt*, throughout Dec–Jan (JCP, DFx, P. Lohse, KNN). Oddly, Humboldt Bay is one of the most regular wintering locations for this species (albeit in low numbers) in the Region. An Elegant Tern on Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey*, lingered to 1 Jan (Y. Gideon, R. Norden), our latest. A juv. Common Tern at New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz*, 15 Dec (DLSu) was late, as this species is rarely found in the Region in winter. Interior Forster's Terns are fairly rare away from the C.V. delta in mid-winter. Although they disperse farther inland (particularly into San Joaquin Valley) in Feb, one on West Butte Road, Sutter, 29 Feb (C. Hawley) seemed unusually far n. of the Delta for such an early date. Up to 11 Black Skimmers wintered again at Charleston Slough in Mountain View, Santa Clara (WGB, m.ob.). Two at Sunset S.B., Santa Cruz, 13 Jan (S. Fernandez) were the only others reported.

Two Marbled Murrelets calling as they flew over Western Addition, S.F., during a storm on the evening of 13 Feb (S. Davies) were unusual 3 mi from the ocean. Other interesting alcid records included five Xantus's/Craveris' Murrelets 1.5 mi off Santa Cruz 18 Dec (S. Allison) and a Horned Puffin s. of Elk, *Mendocino*, 28 Jan (GEC, CEV, DT).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A N. Saw-whet Owl at Bay View Hill 29 Dec provided just the 3rd record for S.F. (J. Andersen). A Lesser Nighthawk at Modesto, *Stanislaus*, 29 Feb (M. Cummings) was an extremely early migrant, but one at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay N.W.R., *Alameda*, 30 Dec was surely wintering (ph., †J. Buffa, †C. Morris), apparently a first for the Region. A Vaux's Swift over College L. 1–28 Jan provided a rare winter record for *Santa Cruz* (DLSu), but 40–60 over L. San Antonio, *Monterey*, 5–13 Feb (G. Meyer) were high numbers in this season.

Seven Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers well distributed along the coast was a better-than-average showing. Of eight coastal Red-naped Sapsuckers, an astounding seven came from *Santa Cruz* (m.ob.). The two inland reports were from Cosumnes R. Preserve, Sacramento, 9 Jan (JTr) and Paradise, *Butte*, 16–17 Feb (BWb, JHS, TDM). San Francisco averages less than one Nuttall's Woodpecker a year, so one at L. Merced 21 Jan–1 Mar was of interest (B. Fitch). A Hairy Woodpecker in *Santa Cruz* 2 Feb was thought to represent one of the Pacific Northwestern forms (†DLSu).

Wintering Least Flycatchers were at Delta Pond, *Sonoma*, 14–20 Jan (*Sonoma's* 3rd; DN et al.) and Arcata marsh, *Humboldt*, 13 Dec–29 Feb (KNN, †DFx et al.). Single Hammond's Flycatchers were at Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, 15 Jan (CLu, LLu, RS) and Cosumnes R. Preserve 29 Dec (JTr, WEH). Five E. Phoebes were above the recent average: the late fall bird at Merced N.W.R., *Merced*, to 12 Dec (KVV, JCS, JSL); Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, 19 Dec (JBo); Santa Rosa, *Sonoma*, 19 Dec–20 Jan (BDP et al.); Tracy, *San Joaquin*, 15–21 Feb (B. Reiling, F. Vanslager, DGY et al.); and Sutter N.W.R. 13 Feb (*Sutter's* first; †JCS, JSL). Two Say's Phoebes at Mono L. 16 Feb beat the previous *Mono* early date by four days (J. Carle). The lone Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo*, 2 Jan–7 Feb (†PJM, †RSTh, ph. AWn).

A modest total of just three Tropical Kingbirds was reported: Half Moon Bay 18 Dec (G. Nunn, J. Hully); Moss Beach, *San Mateo*, 13 Jan (RSTh); and L. Merced, S.F., 3 Jan–1 Mar (B. Fitch, m.ob.). Two Cassin's Kingbirds in se. *Santa Clara* 30 Dec (MMR) were at a site of known residency, but singles at King City, *Monterey*, 25 Feb (J&HBa) and Moss Landing, *Monterey*, 28 Feb–8 Mar (RF) were thought to be early migrants. Last winter's **Thick-billed Kingbird** reappeared at Half Moon Bay 18 Dec–7 Mar (G. Deghi, m.ob.).

SHRIKES THROUGH THRASHERS

Of seven N. Shrikes, five were in the interior and two were in coastal *Humboldt*, yet just one, an imm. at Davis, *Yolo*, 20 Feb (SCH) was reported into Feb. A Loggerhead Shrike in *Mono* 5 Dec provided a rare winter record e. of the Sierra (J&DP). Seven "Solitary" Vireos were reported (none documented): one Blue-headed from *Humboldt*, four coastal Cassin's, and single Plumbeous from *Humboldt* and *Stanislaus*. A Warbling Vireo at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz*, 2 Dec was a late migrant (TN, B. McLaughlin).

Tree Swallows were oft-mentioned and widespread this season, including a flock of 850 (with 450 Violet-greens) at College L., *Santa Cruz*, 1 Jan (a noteworthy winter count; DLSu). Typical arrival dates were mid-Feb, including *Mono's* earliest ever 17 Feb (2 birds; B. Miller). *Mendocino's* first migrants were at Ukiah 6 Feb (15; GEC, CEV) and *Siskiyou* recorded its earliest ever when two headed n. over Bass L. on the wintery date of 20 Jan (RE). A N. Rough-winged Swallow at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, 22 Jan (CEV), may have wintered locally; the first migrants were not detected in *Santa Cruz* until 21 Feb (DLSu) or in *Santa Clara* until 22 Feb (AJ). A Cliff Swallow at the Stockton Oxidation Ponds, *San Joaquin*, 21 Dec (KVV, JSL, SRv) was probably the same bird seen at both the same location and s. of there 21 Nov (KH). Cliff Swallows are extremely rare in winter in California.

A Rock Wren at a Davenport quarry 20 Jan provided the first *Santa Cruz* winter

record "in quite a few years" (DLSu). An Am. Dipper on Clear Cr. 12–17 Jan furnished the first *San Benito* record in over 20 years (SDF, KVV). Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Salt R. 3 Jan (G. Gray, S. Pagliuchi) and Blue L. 13 Feb (L. Elias) furnished rare *Humboldt* winter records. A controversial female bluebird at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara/San Mateo*, 14 Dec–14 Jan (ADeM, MMR, m.ob.) was apparently finally settled as a Western. Few Mt. Bluebird reports were received and smaller numbers were noted from traditional locations; 23 on 5 Dec in e. *Mono*, where rare in winter, were noteworthy (J&DP). A N. Mockingbird 28 Dec at Lewiston was *Trinity's* best bird this Season (B. Peck); only a handful winter this far north. Unlike last winter when Sage Thrashers were widespread, the only notables were one in Miller/Knox R.S., *Contra Costa*, after 5 Jan (K. Burton et al.), and two in *San Joaquin* 21 Dec–8 Jan (JSL et al.).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

Few warblers surprised observers this Season. The "usual suspects" among e. or s. species were in low-to-average numbers: Tennessee (3), Nashville (20), Yellow (4), Palm (28), Black-and-white (20, a strong showing), Am. Redstart (6), N. Waterthrush (2, but one inland at Tracy, *San Joaquin*, 6 Jan; G. Welch, J. Cuerpo), MacGillivray's (1), and Wilson's (10). A Virginia's Warbler was at Natural Bridges S.B. 30 Dec–1 Jan (A. Kopitov, DLSu; first in winter for *Santa Cruz*). Unusual Lucy's Warblers were in a Oakland yard 26 Dec–19 Feb (the first for *Alameda* since 1953; S. Dickie et al.) and in Ferndale bottoms, *Humboldt*, 2–3 Jan (G. Bloomfield et al.). A Black-throated Blue Warbler remained in Golden Gate Park, S.F., 24 Dec–28 Jan (ASH). A Blackburnian Warbler in Seaside, *Monterey*, 29 Nov–15 Dec (†SRv, m.ob.) did not linger long, but another along Eel R. at Fernbridge, *Humboldt*, was attempting to winter (P. Herrera, †DFx, †JCP). Three Prairie Warblers were in *San Mateo* and *Santa Cruz* (RSTh, DLSu et al.). A Hooded Warbler at Aptos, *Santa Cruz*, first found in Fall, stayed until 12 Dec (H. DeDiego).

Many warbler reports this Season lacked evidence that the birds wintered locally. Most found around Christmas Counts may actually be late migrants. This pattern is hardly news but is worth repeating occasionally. Of the 93 "usual suspect" warblers summarized above, only 13 individuals (14%) were known to be present on dates later than 10 January.

The only Summer Tanagers were a female at Carmel R. mouth 28–29 Dec (SRv, R. Fowler) and a male in King City 20 Jan (J&HBa), both *Monterey*. A wintering Green-tailed Towhee along Coyote Cr., *Santa Clara*, after 28 Jan (AJ) was unusual, as were two Chipping Sparrows north to Ukiah, *Mendocino*, 18 & 23 Dec (†M. Matthiessen, RJK, CEV). Eight Clay-colored Sparrows from *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz* was an unexpected total; wintering individuals seem more regular now than in past decades. As usual, one or more Lark Buntings wintered in Panoche Valley, *San Benito* (†AME) but another along Radio Rd., *Sacramento*, 27 Dec–26 Feb was a surprise (†TDM et al.).

We are learning that Grasshopper Sparrows winter in small numbers in our Region, sometimes in the same fields in which they nest (e.g., 5 in a non-disked field in San Jose, *Santa Clara*, 9 Feb; SCR). Are these birds resident? The only Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows reported were two at Inverness Park, *Marin*, 23 Dec (RS). Eight Harris's Sparrows were a fine showing: two at Lava Beds N.M., *Siskiyou*, 21 Dec–12 Mar (MFRb et al.); McKinleyville 17 Dec into Mar (LPL, GSL) and Garberville 30 Jan–28 Feb (J. Sooter), both *Humboldt*; 22 Jan–6 Feb at Grizzly Island W.A., *Solano* (W. Legg, ph. MEa); 17 Dec–3 Jan Capitola (DLSu) and 1 Jan Felton (R. Golling), both *Santa Cruz*; and 30 Jan–20 Feb near Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* (RF, m.ob.). The only winters with higher numbers west of the Sierran/Cascade divide were 1971–1972, 1982–1983, and 1985–1986.

California has hosted big flocks of wintering longspurs before, but always in the northeast (especially Honey L. or Tule L. areas). This winter's numbers on the C.V. floor were unprecedented. In e. *Yolo*, a mixed flock near Dunnigan all season held up to 55 Chestnut-collareds, one Lapland, and two McCown's (SCH, †MMR, m.ob.). In *Colusa*, three widely scattered Chestnut-collareds 25 Feb were county firsts (TEa), while ≤7 McCown's wintered along Browning Rd. 20 Jan–Mar (BDW, m.ob.); three more were along Lodi Rd. 25 Feb (TEa). A flock of 22 Chestnut-collareds were at Consumnes R. Preserve 1 Jan (JTr), and one Lapland was at the Bishop Tract, *San Joaquin*, 19 Dec (TEa). Near the coast, a Lapland was at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino*, 11 Dec (DT), two Chestnut-collareds were near Buchli Station, *Napa*, 28 Dec–12 Feb (†M. J. Berner) and one Chestnut-collared was at Halfmoon Bay, *San Mateo*, 29 Nov–3 Feb (AJ, AME, ph. A. W. Kratter). The Chestnut-collareds were the first to winter in their respective counties.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES

About the same number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (four) wintered as Black-headeds (five); one Rose-breasted was inland at Sacramento 28 Jan (†D. Williams). Rarely wintering Blue Grosbeaks were at Davis, *Yolo*, 27–29 Feb (C. Schwedler, M. Perrone) and Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 29 Dec–6 Jan (JTr). An imm. Indigo Bunting at Pescadero, San Mateo, 1 Jan (†RSTh) was not seen again.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds rarely winter along the coast, but one was in the Arcata bottoms, *Humboldt*, 17 Dec–18 Feb (KNN et al.). *Humboldt's* 2nd Great-tailed Grackle, a female at King Salmon, remained 28 Nov–19 Feb (M. Wachs, m.ob.). It was not much of a winter for orioles: only three Orchards, one Hooded, nine Bullock's, and one Baltimore were reported, all coastal. The Baltimore was a female in Golden Gate Park 24 Jan–2 Mar (S. Davies, N. White). A few scattered Lawrence's Goldfinch remained north, as usual, including four n. to L. Hennessey, *Napa*, 8 Jan (BDP). The only Evening Grosbeaks of note were two females that wintered at Pt. Reyes N. S. headquarters, *Marin* (RS, LLu, CLu et al.).0

ERRATA

Our Spring reference to Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches at Sierra Buttes, *Sierra*, representing a county first, was in error. Richard E. Johnson previously collected the species here in breeding condition in May 1967 (*Auk* 92: 586–589).

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): David G. Ainley, Jim & Helen Banks, Florence G. Bennett, Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman, Penelope K. Bowen**, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, **Luke Cole, Hugh Cotter**, Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel**, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**, Sam D. Fitton, **David Fix**, Michael Force, Rick Fournier, **James H. Gain**, Bruce H. Gerow, **Steven A. Glover**, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hanson, W. Edward Harper, Stanley W. Harris, Waldo Holt, Alan S. Hopkins, John E. Hunter, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer, Robin L.C. Leong**, Tom W. Leskiew, Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Nick Lethaby, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, John S. Luther, **Timothy D. Manolis, Peter J. Metropulos**, Dan Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson, Todd Newbury, Jim & Debby Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, **Jude C. Power**, Robert Ramer, **Michael F. Robbins, Don Roberson**, Michael M. Rogers, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Shearwater Journeys, Dan Singer, Jim H. Snowden, Larry Spear, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, **Emilie Strauss, David L. Suddjian** (DLSu), Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren**, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White, **Brian D. Williams**, Adam Winer, David G. Yee, **Bob & Carol Yutzy**. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

southern pacific coast

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Abnormally dry weather prevailed through January, with rain pushing south from Alaska into Southern California in February, giving us some much needed moisture, but not enough to bring expected rainfall up to average. Mountain landbirds were scarce to in the coastal lowlands and non-existent in the low deserts. Berry-eating birds such as American Robins and Cedar Waxwings were also present in well-below-normal numbers, and virtually absent in much of the southeastern portion of the Region.

Abbreviations: F.C.R. (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, Inyo.*); G.H.P. (*Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern*); N.E.S.S. (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside*); SDNHM (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); S.E.S.S. (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS

Red-necked Grebea, rare s. of *Monterey* and exceptionally so s. of Pt. Conception, were on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 10–16 Dec (GPS) and in El Segundo, *Los Angeles*, 14–21 Jan (NBB). A Laysan Albatross photographed at the Santa Lucia Bank ±26 nmi wsw. of Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, 15 Jan (DRo) was the only live bird reported, but a badly decomposed individual on a beach in La Jolla 8 Mar (CHe, *SDNHM) was only the second to be found in *San Diego*. An imm. **Short-tailed Albatross** photographed at the Santa Lucia Bank 15 Jan (DRo) adds another sighting to the increasing number reported off California, no doubt reflecting the increase in the world population. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was near Santa Lucia Bank 15 Jan (TME).

An ad. Brown Booby seen from the pier in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 11 Jan (BH), and another at Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles*, 25 Jan (CO) add to the ever-increasing number found along the coast. An imm. Little Blue Heron at Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles*, 16–17 Jan (BSh) was the only one found away from coastal *San Diego*. An ad. Tricolored Heron at N.E.S.S. 30 Dec–9 Jan (MAP) was believed to be the same individual at this location during the past two winters; the imm. at the San Diego River mouth since 6 Nov was last seen 9 Dec (JRS), and the adult present near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, since 23 Oct was still there 27 Feb (YI). The Reddish Egret spending its 18th winter at the Tijuana River mouth/s. San Diego Bay since 19 Aug was last seen 9 Feb (SK), and the imm. in Del Mar since 25 Sep was still present 26 Dec (RTP). The Wood Stork near Escondido, *San Diego*, since at least 1986 was still there 19 Feb (MH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A blue-morph Ross's Goose was at S.E.S.S. 9 Jan (GMcC). Two Tundra Swans in Seal Beach, *Orange*, 23 Dec (JFi) were unusually far south and particularly noteworthy in a winter when few reached this Region. A Wood Duck, rare in extreme se. California, was at S.E.S.S. 26 Feb (MSanM). The only Tufted Duck was a female at Saticoy, *Ventura*, 5–7 Dec (ST). The male Harlequin Duck found in Imperial Beach 7 Nov was still present 5 Mar (CMcG) and a female near Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 14 Feb (GPS) was believed to be the same bird present there in Oct 1999. Only six Long-tailed Ducks were reported along the coast, but one was a short distance inland on L. Cachuma, *Santa Barbara*, 31 Jan–4 Mar (JA). A Hooded Merganser at S.E.S.S. 21 Dec–9 Jan (MAP) was one of only a few found in that area.

One or two Harris's Hawks in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, through the end of the period (PJ) were believed to be birds that arrived in this area in 1994. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk in San Diego 5–22 Jan (JRJ) is one of a few to be found wintering in s. California in recent years. A Swainson's Hawk near Arvin, *Kern*, 18 Dec (MTH) could have been an exceptionally late fall migrant; 1–2 in the n. Antelope Valley, *Kern*, 31 Dec–29 Jan (TEW) were clearly wintering locally; three near Mt. Signal, *Imperial*, 14 Feb (BMi) and another near Brawley 16 Feb (GMcC) were early spring migrants. The Zone-tailed Hawk spending its 7th winter in Goleta since 14 Oct was still present 29 Feb (JEL); one in Moorpark, *Ventura*, 10 Mar (HLJ) was probably the same individual near Ventura 9 Oct–8 Dec (SH). An imm. was in Aliso Viejo, *Orange*, 10–20 Dec (GS), and an ad. near Escondido since 20 Oct was still present 19 Feb (MH). A winter roost of 12–13 Ferruginous Hawks in Simi Valley, *Ventura*, during Jan–Feb (TH) was of note, because little has been published on this behavior. The only Rough-legged Hawks s. of the Owens Valley were up to three in the

This female Williamson's Sapsucker at Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo, 2–6 Jan 2000 had wandered into the lowlands away from areas of normal occurrence. Photograph by Mike San Miguel.

Antelope Valley, *Kern/Los Angeles*, 18 Dec–14 Feb (KLG, MSanM).

Dark Merlins showing characteristics of *suckleyi* were near Imperial Beach 13 Dec (GMcC) and Niland, *Imperial*, 31 Dec (GMcC), and a pale individual identified as *richardsoni* was at Castaic L., *Los Angeles*, 11 Dec (KLG). Two more were in the Antelope Valley 18 Dec–30 Jan (TEW) and another was near Brawley, *Imperial*, 5 Mar (PAG). A Sandhill Crane near Bonsal 28 Feb (PAG) follows closely behind one on s. San Diego Bay 4 Dec, *San Diego*'s first in modern times.

PLOVERS THROUGH MURRELETS

Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers included up to four at Seal Beach through the period (DRW), one at Imperial Beach 18 Dec–6 Mar (JSp, RTP), and one inland near Brawley 16 Feb (GMcC). Up to 25 Mt. Plovers at Seal Beach through the winter (JoB) were the only ones along the coast.

A Solitary Sandpiper near Ontario, *San Bernardino*, 30 Dec–18 Jan (RC) is one of a few found in California in winter. A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. 5 Mar+ (GMcC) was believed to have wintered locally and is the first to be found inland at this season. Up to six Ruddy Turnstones inland at S.E.S.S. to 31 Dec (GMcC) were evidently attempting to winter locally. Most unusual was the presence of ≤5 Stilt Sandpipers on the coast at Ormond Beach near Oxnard, *Ventura*, all winter (DD); another moved between Huntington Beach and Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 3 Oct–19 Mar (LRH, DB). The only Ruffs were singles in Los Osos, *San Luis Obispo*, 9 Oct–13 Jan (MAH, TME) and near Brawley 5–20 Feb (GMcC). Eight Wilson's Phalaropes at S.E.S.S. in early Dec dwindled to one by the end of the period (GMcC), and up to two Red-necked Phalaropes accompanied them 1 Dec–5 Feb (GMcC); both species are rare to casual in this area in winter.

An ad. Laughing Gull found in Santa Monica, *Los Angeles*, 3 Nov was still present 27 Feb (RAH), and is one of only a few found on the coast of California. Two Mew Gulls inland in Bakersfield 18–19 Dec (MTH), and 1–3 around the Salton Sea in Jan–Feb (GMcC, BMi, JEP) were in areas away from the coast, where this species is proving to be regular in small numbers at this time of the year. A Lesser Black-backed Gull at N.E.S.S. 25 Jan–17 Mar (PJ, DSP) was believed to be the same bird here during the winter of 1997–1998. The only Glaucous Gulls reported were single imms. along the coast at Pismo Beach, *San Luis Obispo*, 2 Dec (TME), Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, 6 Jan (BSi), the Santa Ynez R. mouth 27 Jan (JA), and Imperial Beach 4 Mar (TRC), and inland at N.E.S.S. 2 Jan (P&PG). Black-legged Kittiwakes were rare in s. California waters this winter, with 3–4 off Morro Bay 15 Jan (TME) and two off San Diego 30 Dec (BMu) being the only ones reported. A Black Skimmer at S.E.S.S. 12 Feb (KZK) is one of a few found at this inland location in winter. A Marbled Murrelet at Playa del Rey 17–18 Dec (KL) was unusually far south.

DOVES THROUGH TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

A White-winged Dove at the San Juan Ranger St., *Orange*, 9 Jan (TC) was the only one reported from the coastal slope, though numbers wintering at oases along the w. edge of the desert in *San Diego* continue to increase. An Inca Dove at Butterfield Ranch in Anza-Borrego S.P. 18–29 Feb (BMu) was only the 3rd to be found in *San Diego*. A W. Screech-Owl photographed at G.H.P. 28 Jan (JFu) is the first to be found in the well worked desert oases of e. *Kern*. Two Lesser Nighthawks remained at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. throughout the winter (GMcC). Higher-than-expected numbers of Com. Poorwills were reported in December, possibly due to unseasonably warm weather, with individuals near Morro Bay 17 Dec (GPS), at San Simeon, *San Luis Obispo*, 23 Dec (RO), near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, 5-19 Dec (BKH), near Santa Barbara 2 Jan (GT), and in Casper's Wilderness Park, *Orange*, 18 Dec (CW). Wintering Vaux's Swifts included 12 over Los Osos 30 Jan (MDS) and 150+ near downtown Los Angeles 12 Feb (KLG). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird photographed at Otay L., *San Diego*, 12 Dec (DG) was still present 10 Mar (DWA). A female Calliope Hummingbird that hit a window in San Diego 18 Feb (LvanE, *SDNHM) establishes the earliest date for a spring migrant in California; the previous early date was 2 Mar 1976. A male Allen's Hummingbird photographed near El Centro 22–24 Feb (KZK) was only the 3rd found in *Imperial*.

An Acorn Woodpecker in Calipatria 21 Dec–5 Feb (A&VH) was only the 5th to be found in the vicinity of the Salton Sea. At least 12 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found this winter, with most along the coast. A female Williamson's Sapsucker at the Painted Rock Visitor's Center in the Carrizo Plain 2–6 Jan (GB) was the first to be found in *San Luis Obispo* and another near Mission Viejo 28 Feb–20 Mar (VL) was only the 6th in *Orange*.

Although Eastern Phoebes are regular late fall and winter vagrants to California, few are documented as beautifully as this bird near Brawley, Imperial, 15 Jan–6 Mar 2000. Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.

A Greater Pewee, a rare straggler to California, was in Agoura, *Los Angeles*, 19 Dec–19 Jan (RBe). The Least Flycatcher found near Imperial Beach 17 Nov was still present 4 Feb (GMcC). A Hammond's Flycatcher at Laguna Niguel 23 Nov–16 Mar (JEP) was believed to be the same bird at this location last winter. Gray Flycatchers were evidently more numerous than usual, with 30 reported, including 20 along the coast, seven in the San Bernardino/Riverside area, one as far n. as F.C.R. 22 Nov–20 Feb (GMcC, HK), and two around S.E.S.S. A Dusky Flycatcher in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, 2 Jan–17 Feb (JEP) was the same bird present the past three winters, and another was in Santee 17 Dec–20 Jan (BMu). "Western" Flycatchers were also more common than expected, with 10 reported along the coast, one in Bakersfield, *Kern*, 19 Dec (SF), and single birds around S.E.S.S. 11–20 Dec (BMu) and 14 Dec–1 Mar (BMu); three were identified by call as Pacific-slope Flycatchers. More than the expected number of E. Phoebes were present, with single birds at N. Vandenberg Air Force Base, *Santa Barbara*, 26 Dec (BKH), Costa Mesa 5 Dec–12 Feb (JEP), at another location in Costa Mesa 2 Jan–19 Mar (BML), Fountain Valley, *Orange*, 11 Jan–16 Mar (KSG), Chino, *San Bernardino*, 5 Feb (JEP), near Lakeview, *Riverside*, 14 Nov–12 Mar (AEM), at S.E.S.S. 11–20 Dec (BMi), and near Brawley 15 Jan–6 Mar (BMi). Dusky-capped Flycatchers, a species found in s. California every winter, were in Glendora, *Los Angeles*, 22 Dec–7 Jan (JeB) and Fountain Valley 10 Jan–26 Feb+ (LDT); one

near Brawley 23 Mar (GMcC) was believed to have wintered locally. Wintering Ash-throated Flycatchers along the coast, where rare, included single birds in Irwindale, *Los Angeles*, 22–24 Dec (JLF), near Encino, *Los Angeles*, 3 Jan (RBa), and near Imperial Beach 7 Jan–13 Feb (GH). The only Tropical Kingbirds present this winter were one in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 21 Dec–29 Mar (DC), one at another location in Goleta 3–30 Jan (RAH), and a third at Point Mugu N.A.W.S., *Ventura*, all winter (WW), all believed to be birds present at these locations last winter. The Thick-billed Kingbird that returned to Pomona 2 Nov was still present 2 Mar (SJM), having spent its 8th winter at this location; another near Santa Paula, *Ventura*, 9 Feb–10 Mar (SH) was believed to be the same bird present here last winter. A W. Kingbird, virtually unknown in California in winter, was photographed in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, 26 Jan (KSG).

SHRIKES THROUGH WOOD-WARBLERS

An imm. N. Shrike near L. Isabella, *Kern*, 16 Jan–11 Feb (JSc) was somewhat s. of the species' normal winter range.

SA Knowing that wintering Gray Vireos in Sonaroa, Mexico, are closely associated with Elephant Trees (J. M. Bates 1992, *Southwestern Naturalist* 37:232–258), and knowing the largest stand of Elephant Trees in California is in a remote area of Anza-Borrego S.P. in e. *San Diego*, Phillip Unitt led a small group into that area and found five-plus **Gray Vireos** 4–5 Dec. These birds established the first winter record for California and extend the winter range northwestward into the United States.

Fifteen Plumbeous Vireos at as many locations scattered throughout the s. half of this region, compared to only four Cassin's Vireos along the immediate coast, well-illustrates the status and distribution of these two species in s. California in winter. Single N. Rough-winged Swallows in Long Beach 12 Dec (TEW) and 3 Jan (KSG) were along the coast, where unexpected in winter. A Bank Swallow in Irvine 3 Jan (LDT) was only the second to be found in *Orange* in winter, and a Cliff Swallow at that same location 31 Dec–3 Jan (BED) was only the 3rd found in *Orange* in winter. Small numbers of Barn Swallows are now present every winter, with 10 reported along the coast between 12 Dec and 6 Feb, one at L. Isabella, *Kern*, 16 Jan (JSc), and at least 12 reported around the Salton Sea 10 Jan–5 Feb this winter.

A Chestnut-backed Chickadee in Goleta 26 Dec–2 Jan (DC) was s. of its normal range, although this species has been expanding its range southward in recent years. A flock of 12 Bushits near Death Valley Junction, *Inyo*, 5 Feb (TEW) was far from any known location of normal occurrence. A Winter Wren in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 30 Dec–12 Feb (JEP) was believed to be one of the eastern races on the basis of call. An elusive Gray Catbird originally found on Pt. Loma in San Diego 31 Oct was still present 21 Jan (BMu). An ad. Blue Mockingbird of unknown origin, discovered in Long Beach 5 Dec (KSG, RAH), was still present 12 Mar, having been photographed in-hand and seen by hundreds of interested birders.

Along with the commonly occurring wintering wood-warblers (Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Townsend's, and Com. Yellowthroat), an average number of Nashville (15), Yellow (20), Black-and-white (10) and Wilson's (35) Warblers, as well as Am. Redstarts (nine) and N. Waterthrushes (four), along with higher than usual numbers of Black-throated Gray (50+) and Hermit (16) Warblers, were reported from along the coast. In addition, at least six Yellow Warblers were at Prado Regional Park, San Bernardino, 5 Feb (JEP), along with the typical 2–3 around the Salton Sea throughout the winter; a Black-and-white Warbler was in Upland, *San Bernardino*, 29 Jan–28 Feb (NM), and an Am. Redstart was in Riverside 2-9 Jan (NH) along with the expected 3–4 around S.E.S.S. all winter.

A Tennessee Warbler in Santa Barbara 26–28 Dec (KLW) and another in Laguna Hills, *Orange*, 19 Dec (LRH) were probably extremely late fall migrants. Three Lucy's Warblers were present: in Los Osos 11–30 Dec (JSR), near the Santa Ynez River mouth, *Santa Barbara*, 6 Nov–17 Feb (BKH), and in Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara*, 28 Jan (GBW). A female N. Parula was near E. Highlands, *San Bernardino*, 24 Jan (DRW) and a male was in Irvine 12 Dec–14 Mar (BED). Four Chestnut-sided Warblers were along the coast, in Los Angeles 5–9 Jan (KLG), Long Beach 26 Dec–27 Feb (KSG), Irvine 20 Nov–15 Mar (JEP), and in nearby Lake Forest 27 Nov–11 Mar (DRW). A Magnolia Warbler found on Pt. Loma in San Diego in Nov was still present 7 Jan (REW); another was in Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, 8 Dec–8 Mar (DRy). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler in Santa Ana, *Orange*, 1 Mar (DRW) undoubtedly spent the winter. Three Black-throated Green Warblers were present in *San Diego*, with one near Oceanside 25 Nov–6 Feb (PAG) and another in National City throughout the period (DWA), both spending their 4th winters at these locations, and a third near Otay 18 Dec (PU). A Yellow-throated Warbler found in Huntington Beach 6 Nov was still present 17 Mar (BED). Pine Warblers were found in Long Beach 25 Nov–27 Feb (KSG) and Goleta 29 Dec–21 Jan (KB). Palm Warblers appeared to be less numerous than expected, with only eight reported along the coast. Two Worm-eating Warblers were in Huntington Beach, one 18 Oct–22 Feb (DRW) and the other 2 Jan–16 Mar (SGM). The Painted Redstart found in El Centro 30 October was still present 18 Mar (DM).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A male Hepatic Tanager was in San Dimas, *Los Angeles*, 16–26 Jan (JeB) and a male and female were together 6–27 Feb (BZ). Twelve Summer Tanagers, along with at least three times that number of W. Tanagers, wintering along the coast was about average, but a Summer Tanager inland at S.E.S.S. 20 Dec (GMcC) was one of few recorded in this area at this season.

A Green-tailed Towhee in the La Panza Mts., *San Luis Obispo*, 27–29 Dec (GPS) was unusually far n. for a wintering bird. The only Clay-colored Sparrow reported was one in Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, 25 Jan–29 Feb (JMC). A Black-throated Sparrow near Mentone, *San Bernardino*, 17 Feb (DRW) was outside its normal range. A Lark Bunting near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 12 Feb (M&NF) was the only one found this winter. A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow forced into view the during the high tides of 21–22 Jan at Morro Bay (TC), along with five at Seal Beach (JF) and two more in Imperial Beach (DA), all undoubtedly wintered in these salt-water marshes. Fifteen Swamp Sparrows at various localities throughout the Region was fewer than expected, but close to 40 White-throated Sparrows in the same area was about average. At least 16 McCown's Longspurs were in the Antelope Valley, with at least 13 near Lancaster 16 Jan–13 Feb (TEW, KLG), and up to three in Palmdale 27 Nov–27 Dec (TEW, KLG). Up to five Lapland Longspurs in Palmdale Nov–27 Dec (TEW) and one near Lakeview 24 Dec-9 Jan (HK) were the only ones reported. The only Chestnut-col-

lared Longspur was one near Lakeview 21 Dec (CMcG).

The male N. Cardinal near Tecopa, *Inyo*, since last summer was still present 12 Feb (MCM). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Santa Maria 27 Dec–10 Mar (JEL), Goleta 10 Nov–2 Jan (JEL), Santa Barbara 8 Dec–12 Mar (JEL) and Carpinteria 27 Dec–10 Feb (RWH), and single Black-headed Grosbeaks were in downtown Los Angeles 19 Jan (RBa) and San Marino, *Los Angeles*, 20 Dec (KSG). A Blue Grosbeak photographed near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, 29 Dec–9 Jan (CP) is one of a few found in California in winter. A Painted Bunting in Long Beach 13 Feb–12 Mar (KSG) and two near Imperial Beach 30 Dec–8 Jan (DWA, GMcC) were most likely escapees.

Two Rusty Blackbirds were reported: one on Santa Cruz I. 22 Jan (DC) and the other in Goleta 31 Jan–13 Mar (GBW). Unprecedented were ≤5 Com. Grackles in Long Beach 3–13 Jan (TEW, KSG); however, this species is spreading westward and more can be expected. The only Orchard Orioles this winter were two together in Santa Barbara 20 Jan–3 Mar (G&JH), one in Mission Viejo, *Orange*, 19 Dec (JEP), and another in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, 31 Jan–18 Mar (BAA). Five Hooded Orioles in Santa Barbara during Jan–Feb (JEL) was a high number for winter, with one in Costa Mesa 13–31 Jan (JEP) being the only other one reported. Six Baltimore Orioles along the coast were about average, most associated with wintering Bullock's Orioles attracted to flowering eucalyptus. Small numbers of Scott's Orioles regularly winter at selected "oases" along the w. edge of the desert in San Diego but are unusual elsewhere at this time of the year; as such, single birds near Santa Barbara 6 Oct–22 Mar (JEL), in Ventura 30 Dec–2 Jan (JT), Pomona 4–5 Dec (LS), Morongo Valley 24 Feb (RAH), and Calipatria 21 Dec–9 Jan (A&VH) were more than expected, as were at least 12 at scattered locations in the mountains and on the coastal slope of San Diego in Jan–Feb (PU).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface): Don Adams, Douglas W. Aguillard, Bruce A. Aird, John Ayres, Richard Barth (RBa), Ron Beck (RBe), David Bradley, John Bradley (JoB), Jean Brant (JeB), Karen Bridgers, N. Bruce Broadbooks, George Butterworth, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (*San Bernardino*), Jamie M. Chavez, Therese R. Clawson, Richard Clements, David Compton, **Elizabeth Copper** (*San Diego*), Tom Croom, Brian E. Daniels, Don Desjardin, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Richard A. Erickson, John Fitch (JFi), Jon L. Fisher, Sam Fitton, Mary and Nick Freeman (M & NF), Joe Furhman (JFu), **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsburg, Philip and Pat Gordon (P & PG), David Griffin, Tom Halpin, Robert A. Hamilton, Robert W. Hanson, George and Joan Hardie (G & JH), Marjorie Hastings, Loren R. Hays, Gjon Hazzard, Sanger Hedrick, Nathan Heick, **Matthew T. Heindel** (*Kern*), **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Charlie Herzfeld (CHe), Brad K. Hines, Mark A. Holmgren, Bob Houtz, Christopher Howard (CHo), Andrew and Vernon Howe (A & VH), Yaz Ikegaya, Joseph R. Jehl, H. Lee Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Howard King, Sandy Koonce, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Kevin Larson, Brian M. Leatherman, Victor Leipzig, **Joan E. Lentz** (*Santa Barbara*), Chet McGaugh, **Robert McKernan** (*Riverside*), Anthony E. Metcalf, Bob Miller (BMi), Nathan Morehatch, Steven G. Morris, Brennan Mulrooney (BMu), Dori Myers, Michael C. Myers, Stephen J. Myers, Chet Ogan, Regina Orr, **Michael A. Patten**, Robert T. Patten, Dharm S. Pellegrini, James E. Pike, Don Roberson (DRo), James S. Royer, Don Ryan (DRy), James R. Sams, Michael San Miguel, John Schmitt (JSc), Bob Shanman (BSh), Lisa Shannon, Brad Sillasen (BSi), Gregory P. Smith, John Spain (JSp), Greg Stewart, Michael D. Stiles, John Tiffany, Guy Tingos, Larry D. Tripp, Steve Tucker, Philip Unitt, Leslie van Epps, Richard E. Webster, **Walter Wehtje** (*Ventura*), Catherine Waters, Grant B. Weyburne, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Kathleen L. Whitney, Tom E. Wurster, Barry Zimmer. An additional 50+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

west indies

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This report is dedicated to Dr. Bill Robertson, who passed away on 28 January. His research and influence in the West Indies is largely responsible for the existence of the West Indies Regional Report, initiated in 1979. Dr. Bill's "Observations on the birds of St. John, Virgin Islands" (*Auk* 79:44–76, 1962) was the "agar" for this report, antecedent Christmas Birds Counts, and myriad related works.

Reports this season arrived from the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Haiti, Martinique, and Puerto Rico. There appears to have been an unprecedented invasion of large four-year gulls in the southern Caribbean that precipitated some international discussion from three corners: Barbados, Canada, and Finland. At issue were four purported immature (of course) Yellow-legged and Herring Gulls (see Table 1). Photos shuttled across the length and breadth of the Atlantic via the Internet, greatly facilitating a limited discussion. No consensus is advanced on positive identification, but Martin Frost proffers that they belong to the Azores race *Larus cachinnans atlantis*. This wave of larids is somewhat mirrored by the remarkable invasion of far northern finches and a Northern Shrike. Another e-image elicited a request for the original, and I think you'll agree that the Woody Bracey photo of a Kirtland's Warbler is as much art as it is documentation. This may seem strongly phrased, but any photo of this species peering back on the wintering grounds is worth more than a thousand words.

Abbreviations: Ba (*Bahamas*); Bd (*Barbados*); Be (*Bermuda*); Ma (*Martinique*).

PETRELS THROUGH TERNS

A leap-year Black-capped Petrel presented itself to WB while he was deep-sea fishing on 29 Feb, perhaps 10 miles into the Atlantic from Abaco, Ba; the location may not seem strange, but the date gives one pause. White (1998) reported a pair of petrels off Crossing Rock, Abaco, 29 Apr 1989 (DS), and RLN noted one off Great Inagua 16 Apr 1985. Hatchlings arrive in late Feb–early Mar and after a day or two may be left alone for days while parents forage afar. This bird is likely from Sierra Maestra, e. Cuba, wandering a bit along the 100-fathom line. The only known Audubon's Shearwater colony at Bd was censussed 8 Jan, with 114 birds (A,J&MG, MF, E&HM, DP). A Red-billed Tropicbird was exploring seaside cliffs at Culebrita Is, PR, 24

Dec (MO), and three White-tailed Tropicbirds were noted at Fort del Morro, Old San Juan (SM), in early Feb. A Brown Pelican was seen at Great Sound, Be, 29 Dec into Feb (MW), a rare occurrence. Three Neotropic Cormorants were noted at Grog Pond, Exuma, 20 Jan (PD, DE). A Double-crested Cormorant was at Culebra Harbor (MO) 24 Dec and another was photographed near Aguadilla, PR, 29 Dec (JCd, *fide* MO). A juv. and sub-adult Grey Heron wintered through 14 Feb at Graeme Hall Swamp, Bd (MF). Little Egrets began nesting activity at Graeme Hall Swamp 14 Feb (MF).

Five W. Indian Whistling-Ducks were noted near Moriah Cay, Exuma, 19 Jan (PD, DE) at one of the historical sites for this species (indicating its perseverance). An outstanding find at Lyford Cay, New Providence, Ba, 17 Dec were two Snow Geese that lingered to 12 Jan (TH, TW et al.). J. R. Crouse reported upwards of *1,000* N. Shovelers at a lake in the Savanne Desolee near Gonaives, Haiti, 3 Dec. Other waterfowl numbered 20+ Am. Wigeons and 70 White-cheeked Pintails. Cuban-race Am. Kestrels were noted at Bowe's eatery and Hartswell 19–20 Jan (PD, DE). Indicators of the Peregrine Falcon's recovery were the **five** counted 19 Dec: four on the Cabo Rojo, PR, CBC (JCl et al.) and one at Fajardo, PR (JW et al.); three were recorded from Bd 2 Jan (MF).

On 7 Feb SM heard four Yellow-breasted Crakes, rarely reported from the Region, calling at Boqueron Refuge, PR. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was reported (MF) from Bd as a "cage bird," the 2nd such record from Bd. Regrettably, Frost reports that no date or place of capture is known. A Piping Plover remained throughout the period at Brown's Point, New Providence (AB, TW), and 17 (unbanded) Piping Plovers were noted at Green Turtle Cay, Abaco (WB), 31 Jan. Six Red Knots were noted on the San Juan, PR, CBC 17 Dec (LJR-H et al.). During the Salinas-Bani CBC, DR, 18 Dec, one of the first **Wilson's Phalaropes** in many winters was reported (KW et al.).

Four imm. Yellow-legged Gulls (*Larus cachinnans atlantis*) or imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls festooned harbor bollards at Pile Bay, St. Michaels, Bd, 15 Jan–Feb, testing the skills and sanity of local observers and evoking gestures of good luck and apologies from others. Without immediate access to comparative material, the final vote may remain split on which bird was what. The problem was no less acute along the w. coast of Trinidad, where three-four species of larids excited local birders (FH; Table 1). A pair of Sandwich Terns were noted at Sandy Point, Abaco, 7 Dec (SH, WB). A small flock of Com. Terns was noted at Rio Anasco 27 Feb (MO).

Table 1. Larid observations in the West Indies from December 1999 to February 2000.

Species	Location	Date	Observers
Laughing Gull	Abaco, Bahamas	31 Jan	WB
	Gonaives Bay, Haiti	9 Feb	JRC
	Waterloo, Trinidad	19 Feb	FH
Bonaparte's Gull	New Providence, Ba	5 Dec	SH, TW
	Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	3 Feb	MO
Black-headed Gull	Waterloo, Trinidad	19 Feb	FH
Ring-billed Gull	Abaco, Bahamas	7 Dec	WB, SH
	Abaco, Bahamas	31 Jan	WB
	New Providence, Ba	5 Dec	SH, TW
	Gonaives Bay, Haiti	19 Feb	RC
Herring Gull	Abaco, Bahamas	7 Dec	WB, SH
	Abaco, Bahamas	31 Jan	WB
	New Providence, Ba	5 Dec	SH, TW
	Barbados	20 Feb	EM, MF, MG
Yellow-legged Gull	Barbados	15 Jan	EM, MF, MG
Lesser Black-backed Gull	West End, Be	30 Dec-13 Feb	EA, PW, IF
	New Providence, Ba	5-19 Dec	SH, TH, TW
	Mayaguez, Puerto Rico	26 Jan-3 Feb	MO
	Waterloo, Trinidad	19, 22 Feb	FH
Great Black-backed Gull	Bermuda	30 Dec	EA
	New Providence, Ba	5-19 Dec	SH, TH, TW
	Abaco, Ba	7 Dec	WB, SH

PARROTS THROUGH FINCHES

About 30 Cuban Parrots were heard at Hole-in-the-Wall, S. Abaco (WB, TW), 17 Jan, indicating a good colony size. Not often reported from the Region are resident Burrowing Owls, but four were noted on the Santo Domingo CBC 19 Dec (KW et al.). For the first time during this season, two reports of **Short-eared Owl** (*Asio flammeus portoricensis*) were received from the San Juan CBC, where two were found (LJR-H et al.), and from the Tortola, BVI, CBC, where one was found 27 Dec (RR et al.). It appears that there some regional population expansion has occurred during the last few years since the species was found at St. Thomas and Guana I., BVI. A continental Short-eared Owl found its way to Be, where SD and DW found one at Cooper's Point 30 Jan. Near the entrance to Guanica Forest, PR, SM heard 8–10 Puerto Rican Nightjars calling 7 Feb. The area seems to be a locus for this endangered species.

Tony White reports that observers on Abaco had problems finding hummingbirds after hurricane *Floyd* passed through. But Gawn, birding Martinique 18-21 Dec, was dealt the island's hummingbird quartet: Purple-throated and Green-throated Caribs, Antillean Crested, and the endemic Blue-headed Hummingbird. Mlodinow recorded all five of Puerto Rico's hummingbird species; Antillean Mango, Green Mango, Green-throated Carib, Antillean Crested Hummingbird and endemic Puerto Rican Emerald, in early Feb.

An E. Phoebe found 16 Feb at Cable Beach, New Providence, provided the first island record (PD, AB). Another outstanding flycatcher find was an E. Kingbird 19 Dec on the New Providence CBC (TH et al.). A N. Shrike, rarely reported from this Region, was found at Cooper's Point, Be, 30 Jan (SD, DW), and rather sets the tone for the rest of Bermuda's winter passerine report. An unusual winter sighting of a Yellow-throated Vireo occurred at Ocean View golf course, Be, 5 Jan (WF) and a **Philadelphia Vireo** was seen 19 Dec near Cabo Rojo, PR (MB, SE), one of few reports from the Region. Cave Swallows (70) were noted (SM) along the sea cliffs at Guajataca, PR, 12 Feb, where they are likely prospecting for nesting sites. Crouse reports a small flock of swallows at Furcy, Haiti, at about 5000-ft elevation, where the habitat is likely for Golden Swallow. A concerted effort should be made to census this area, for it may be one of only a few such habitats in the Region. A House Wren present since Sep 1998 was heard singing in early Feb at Fontabelle, St. Michael, Bd (EM). Two Hermit Thrushes were noted on the Bermuda CBC 30 Dec (EA et al.). Both N. and Bahama Mockingbirds were found at Exuma (PD, DE); the former is associated with settlements and the latter is found in more natural coppice and old-field habitats. Four White-breasted Thrashers were coaxed

SA The Lesser Antillean Bullfinch is apparently resident at St. Croix, USVI, where a single bird was found during the 2 Jan.CBC (SF et al.). A set of abandoned eggs was collected on St. Croix (WK) in the mid-1980s. This species is common on St. John, yet not known from St. Thomas. Whether it became established at St. John as a result of natural invasion or was brought in as a cage bird has been debated. The origin of the St. Croix sighting is not known, but the count circle includes a port, Fredricksted, where ship-assisted arrival is possible. Alternatively, given the number of hurricanes that have raked the island in recent decades, it is possible its occurrence is from a natural invasion. No reports have come from the British Virgin Islands, where there are similar habitats and knowledgeable observers. More information would be useful on the possible origin of the St. Croix population.

out in the afternoon heat 19 Dec (MG) at Presqu'ile de la Caravelle, Ma, the only other site on the planet besides the Atlantic coast of St. Lucia where this critically endangered, monotypic thrasher is found. A Pearly-eyed Thrasher was photographed 16 Dec at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama, for the first record there (BS, WB, PS). Dry Tortugas to Key Biscayne, here it comes.

Golden Warblers with red heads (*Dendroica petechia ruficapilla*), an interesting convergent type nearly identical with Mangrove (Yellow) Warbler of Baja California and the Caribbean coast of Central America (Curson et al. 1994), were common at Martinique 18–21 Dec (MG). The Kirtland's Warbler found 28 Oct (EC, PD) was seen again 9 Jan (WB, HP). It or another less brightly colored bird was photographed by WB about an hour later and 300 yards from the first sighting at Hole-in-the-Wall, S. Abaco, strongly suggesting a wintering bird and potentially a repeat occurrence. Two endemic Elfin Woods Warblers were counted 19 Dec on the Fajardo, PR, CBC (JW). On 19 Dec, two Green-tailed Warblers, endemic to Hispaniola, were noted on the Santo Domingo, DR, CBC (KW et al.). A **Summer Tanager** at Bermuda's Arboretum 14–18 Feb furnished an unusual record (PW, IF).

Grasshopper Sparrows were noted at two locations on Exuma (PD, DE), one 18 Jan near Mt. Thompson and possibly two at Williams Town 19–20 Jan. On 7 Dec at Clearwater, Be, **103** Snow Buntings were counted (SD). Does this count portend a good year for birding in the Region? A **Blue Grosbeak** was noted on the Cabo Rojo, PR, CBC 19 Dec (JCl et al.) for the first Regional report of the season. A Pine Grosbeak was present Dec–Jan in Somerset, Be (*fide* AD) for another remarkable winter record from Bermuda. A female Painted Bunting was also found 20 Jan at Williams Town, Exuma (PD, DE). The quest for Martinique Oriole proved a little more difficult than expected for MG, but he managed to find a pair at Le Diamant, Ma, 21 Dec. A flock of 15 Com. Redpolls was present throughout Jan at Be (DW). A profitable trip (JRC) to Furcy, Haiti, elevation 5000 ft., 15 Jan produced 6–10 Antillean Siskins, an endemic species infrequently reported from the Region.

Corrigendum/Addendum

Male and female Pine Siskins reported in *NAB* 53(4):437 should read Antillean Siskins. At Gordon Cay, off Abaco, Ba, a W. Kingbird was noted 27 Nov (BH et al.).

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I. Pribilof Islands. Expect Red-legged Kittiwake, Red-faced Cormorant, and ten or more Asiatic species.

May 17–23, 2001. Code R/A*

II. Gambell for High Arctic and Asian Vagrants.

May 25–29; June 8–10, 2001. Code A*

III. Nome and Seward Peninsula. Expect Bluethroat, Bristle-thighed Curlew, and others.

May 30–June 4; June 11–16. Code R/A*

IV. Barrow and High Arctic for Spectacled and Steller's Eiders.

June 4–7, June 17–20, 2001. Code R/A*

V. Dutch Harbor for Whiskered Auklet.

June 23–27, 2001. Code R/A*

VI. Kenai Peninsula for Parakeet Auklet and Kittlitz's Murrelet.

July 9–16, 2001. Code R/A*

VII. Denali National Park and Highway for Smith's Longspur, Gyrfalcon, and more.

July 1–8, 2001. Code R/A*

All led by Forrest Davis: *combinations possible.*

Contact: Forrest or Rochelle Davis, High Lonesome Ecotours, 570 S. Little Bear Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635; (800) 743-2668; hilone@hilonesome.com

ARIZONA

I. Arizona winter specialties. Rufous-backed Robin, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Bendire's Thrasher.

January 12-15, 2001; February16-19, 2001; March 9-12, 2001. Code A*

II. Winter birds of southeatern Arizona. Over 150 species expected, including at least 14 raptors, 15 sparrows, and 4 thrashers. Rufous-backed Robin and Ruddy Ground-Dove likely.

February 3-10, 2001. Code A*

III. Neotropical specialties of southeastern Arizona. Over 200 species expected, including Elegant Trogon, Montesuma Quail, 12 or more hummingbirds, at least 6 owls, 5 striped sparrow.

May 2-12, 2001. Code A*

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April 6–9, April 16–19, May 3–6, May 10–13. Code R*

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Yellowknife to Cambridge Bay. High Arctic. Expect 50 species, most of them nesting, including Yellow-billed Loon, King Eider, Rock Ptarmigan, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Leader Tony Beck.

June 25—July 2, 2001. Code A*

Contact: Dianne Gilbert at Nature Travel Holidays, P.O. Box 1334, 6A Clarence St., Kingston, ON K7I 5C6 Canada. (888) 305-3955, www.naturetravelholidays.com

Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America

MEXICO

I. San Blas and Durango Highway: San Blas for Military Macaw, Citreoline Trogon, San Blas Jay; Durango Highway for Tufted Jay, Red Warbler, Red-headed Tanager. 250-plus species. Led by Forrest Davis

January 20–28, 2001. Code A*

II. Sonora: Yecora, Estero Tobari, Alamos, Elegant Quail, Mountain Trogon, Black-throated Magpie-Jay. Expect more than 250 species. Led by Forrest Davis.

February 17–24, 2001. Code A*

III. Sonora: Sea of Cortez, Yecora, Alamos, Red-billed Tropicbird, Purplish-backed Jay, White-striped Woodcreeper. Expect over 275 species. Led by Forrest Davis.

March 17–29, 2001. Code R/A*

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April 11–20, 2001. Code OB**

Contact: Shirley Anderson or Greg Lopez, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, PO Box 33008, Austin, TX 78764; (800) 328-VENT; fax (512) 328-2912; info@ventbird.com

BELIZE

Lamanai Outpost for Jabiru, Yucatán Nightjar, Black-collared Hawk. Las Cuevas in rarely-visited southwest Belize for Scarlet Macaw, Barred Forest-Falcon, Keel-billed Motmot, and Harpy Eagle possible. Led by Marcus England and Forrest Davis.

April 1–9, 2001. Code A/I*

Extensions:

Tikal Jungle Lodge, **April 17–20, 2001**; Jaguar Preserve and Barrier Reefs, **April 12–15, 2001**; Chan Chich Lodge, **April 15–20, 2001**.

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Africa

KENYA

Private tenting safari visiting Meru NP. Laikipia Plains, Lake Boringo, and Masaii Mara. Expect 400-500 bird species, plus 50 mammals. Leader: Brian Finch.

February 10–25, 2001. Code R/A*

Contact: Lauren Woodhouse, Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321; fax (415) 788-4153; travel@siemerhand.com

BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA

Okavango Delta, Mashatu Game Reserve, Western Caprivi NP, Morerni, Chitabe Camp. Expect over 300 species, Pel's Fishing-Owl, Wattled Crane, African Pinfoot, Black Egret probable. Limit 12. Led by Derek Solomon.

March 28–April 12, 2001. Code R/A*

Contact: Lauren Woodhouse, Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321

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May 21–June 4, 2001. Code A*

Contact: Nancy Grossman, Voyagers International, PO Box 915, Ithaca, NY 14851; (800) 633-0299; vicki@voyagers.com

Antarctica

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January 26–February 12, 2001. Code OB**

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Europe and Middle East

IRELAND

Countrywide: Connemara, Dublin, Ring of Kerry, Kilkenay, and Cliffs of Moher. Expect 125-142 species, including Corn Crake and Red-billed Chough. Led by Michael Carmody.

May 16–31, 2001. Code R*

Contact: Susan Carmody, Legacy Tours, PO Box 12540, Olympia, WA 98508; phone/fax (888) 754-6186; legacy@haleyon.com

FINLAND/NORWAY

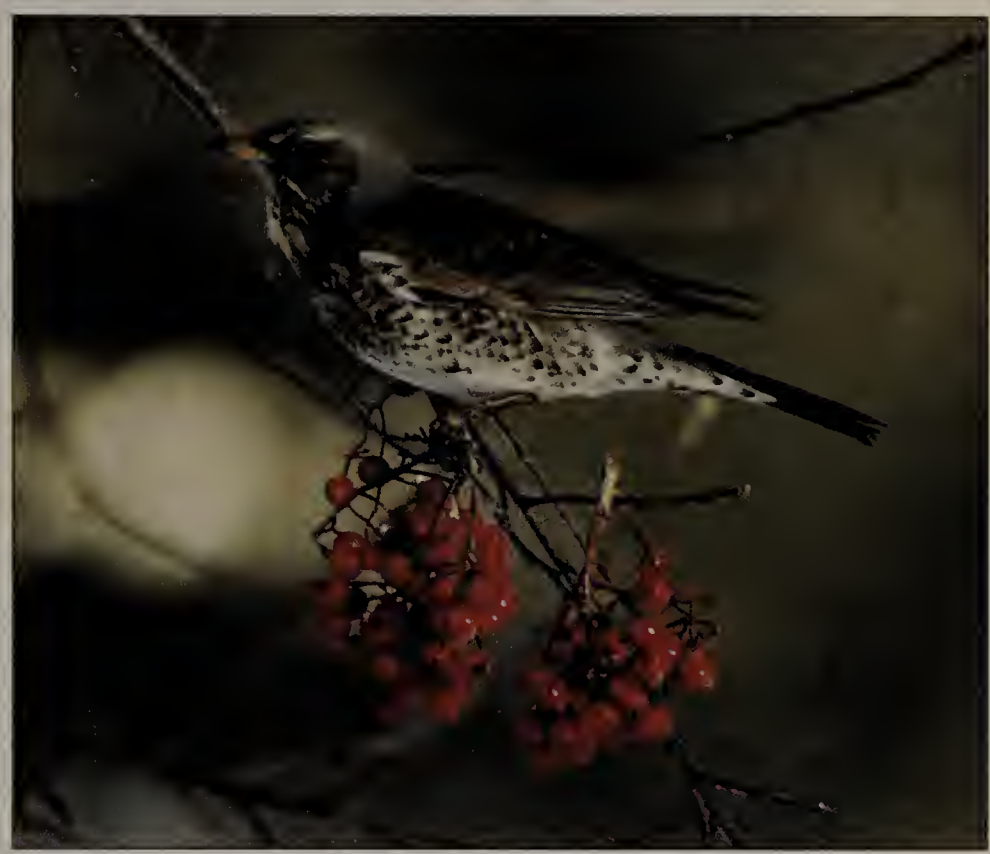
Lapland, Europe's last remaining wilderness. Includes Oulu, Liminka Bay, Kuusamo, Ivalo, and Veranger Fjord. Led by ABA member Jarl Peltomaki.

May 20–June 2, 2001. Code R/A*

Contact: Lauren Woodhouse, Siemer & Hand Travel, 750 Battery St., Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111; (800) 451-4321; fax (415) 788-4133; travel@siemerhand.com

pictorial highlights

The Great Skua is normally a pelagic species in North America meaning, naturally, that it is seldom seen from land. This obliging first-winter bird (aged by the U-shaped subterminal spots to the scapulars and wing coverts) was photographed ashore at St. John's, Newfoundland, 30 Jan 2000. It appeared on 20 Jan, after a severe gale in which it injured its left wing. Undaunted, it fed on dead gulls and even killed a Great Black-backed Gull. However, it was further injured when attacking an Iceland Gull and was captured for rehabilitation 3 Feb. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.



European strays add excitement to fall and winter birding in northeastern North America. Some species, such as this Fieldfare photographed at Grande-Cascapédia, Gaspé, 29 Jan 2000, add color as well. This first-winter male remained at a feeder from 14 Jan-13 Feb. Photograph by Michèle Lafleur.

Gulls present a special identification challenge, not only because of the myriad plumages related to age and geographic variation, but also because of their penchant for interbreeding. A particularly well-known hybrid is a cross between a Glaucous Gull and a Herring Gull, a cross originally described as a separate species, the Nelson's Gull, many years ago. This first-winter Nelson's Gull was photographed at Superior, Wisconsin, 7 Dec 1999. Note the rather Glaucous Gull-like bill but the wing pattern reminiscent of a Thayer's Gull. Photograph by Karl Bardon.

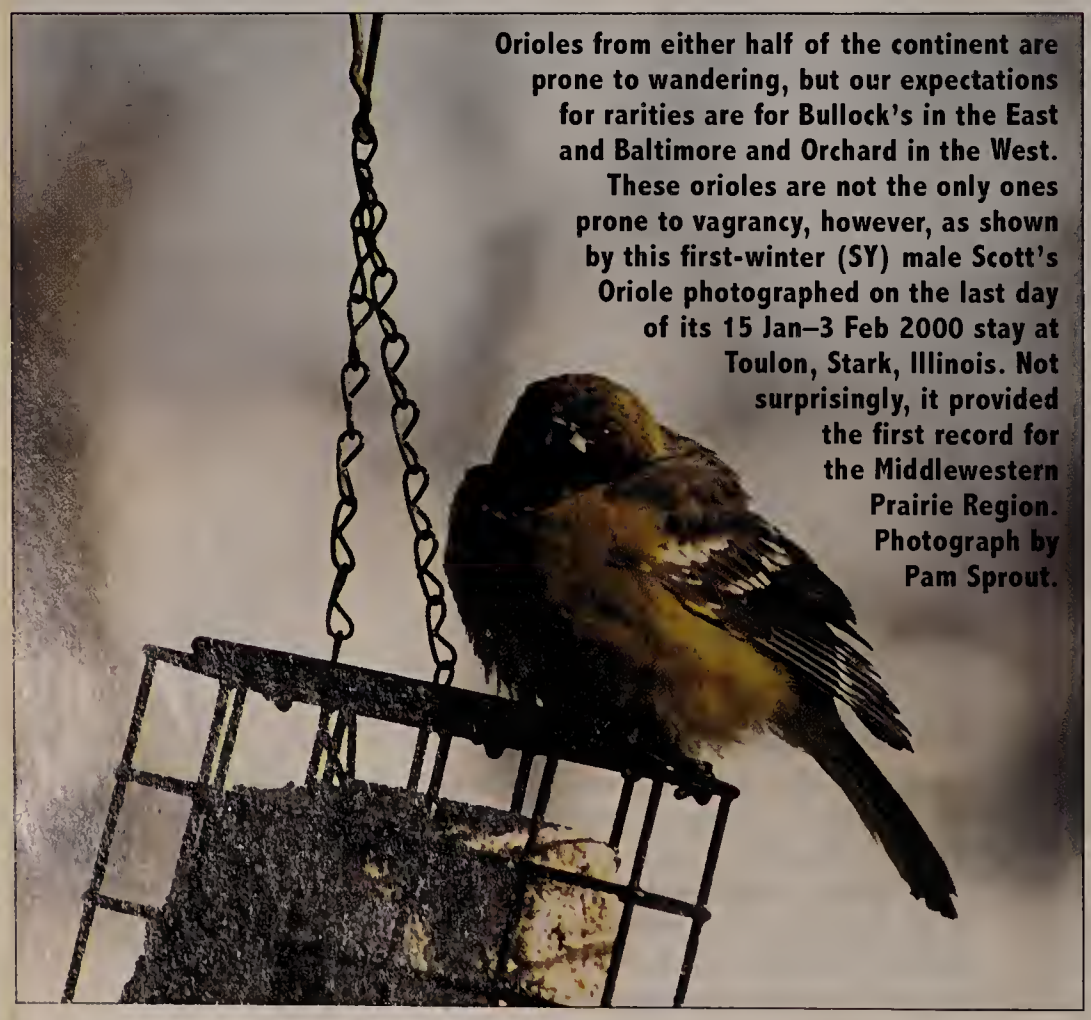
The Clay-colored Sparrow breeds primarily in the southern Prairie Provinces and across the northern Great Plains; hence, it is rare toward either coast, although it occurs regularly during fall migration. This immature in fresh plumage, documented east of its usual range at Martin's Creek, Northampton, Pennsylvania, 12 Dec 1999, was one of six found in the Hudson-Delaware Region this winter. Photograph by Brian Hardiman.

pictorial highlights

Any albatross off the Atlantic Coast is noteworthy. Almost all of the few records involve the Yellow-nosed Albatross, like this subadult a mere 5 km off Hatteras, North Carolina, 5 Feb 2000. This bird furnished the first documented record for the Southern Atlantic Region. Photograph by James Cameron.

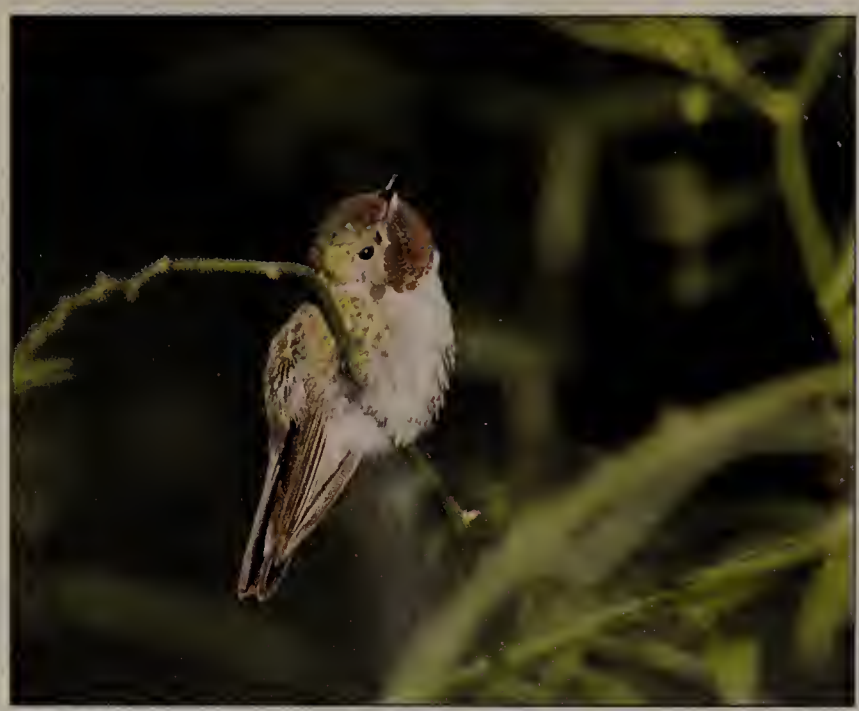
As with the Rufous-capped Warbler (see the cover), United States records of the Rufous-backed Robin have increased dramatically in the past decade. Texas's eighth was this beauty at Sarita, Kenedy, 31 Jan–13 Feb 2000; the photo was taken on 5 Feb. Photograph by Jimmy McHaney.

The Say's Phoebe is a denizen of the arid West. A few wander east in fall, fitting of its autumnal coloration. Kentucky's second record was furnished by this bird in Logan County 28 Dec 1999–14 Jan 2000; the photo was obtained 8 Jan. Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

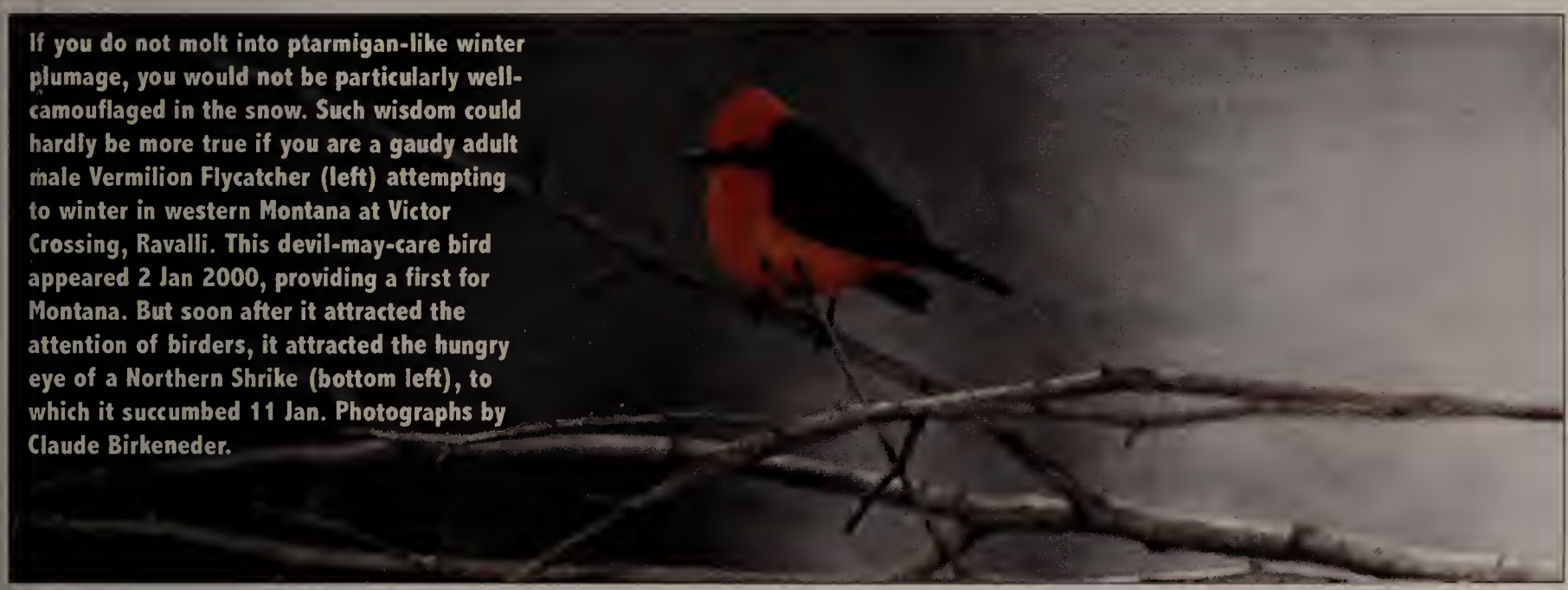


Orioles from either half of the continent are prone to wandering, but our expectations for rarities are for Bullock's in the East and Baltimore and Orchard in the West. These orioles are not the only ones prone to vagrancy, however, as shown by this first-winter (SY) male Scott's Oriole photographed on the last day of its 15 Jan–3 Feb 2000 stay at Toulon, Stark, Illinois. Not surprisingly, it provided the first record for the Middlewestern Prairie Region. Photograph by Pam Sprout.

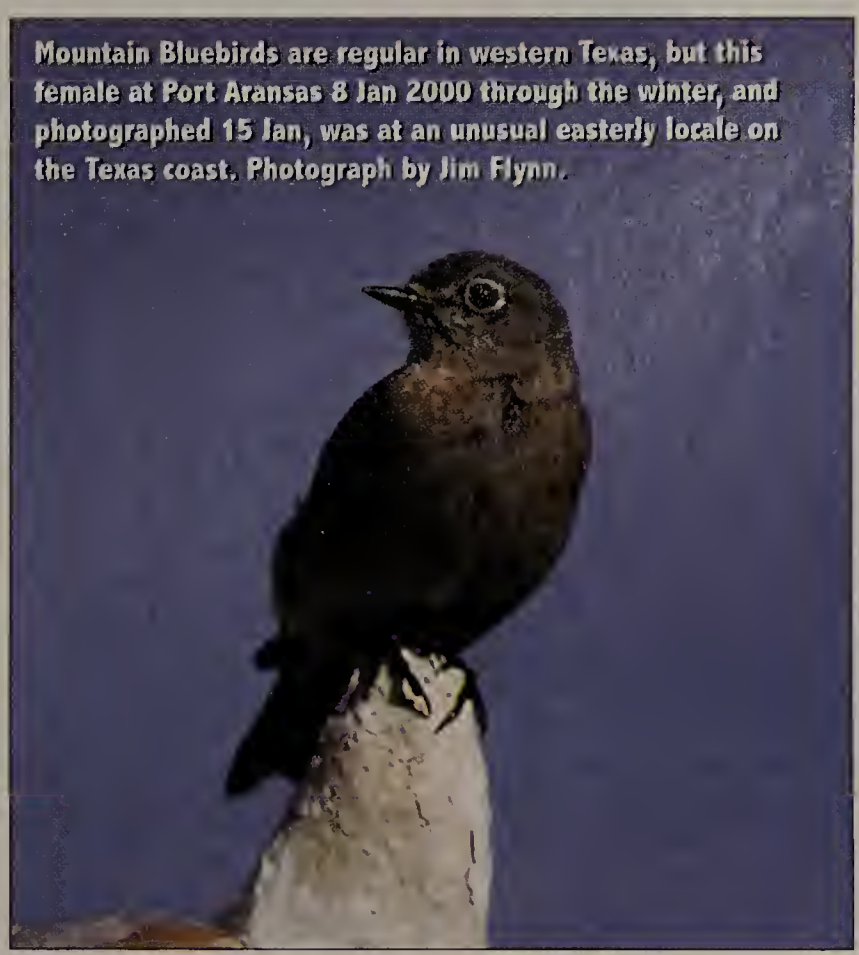
Snowy Owls frequently push southward along the Atlantic Coast during winter, but who would expect one in Florida? This immature (note the black barring on the mantle and wing coverts) provided the first record for that decidedly non-snowy state. It frequented St. George Island State Park and Bald Point, Franklin, 8 Dec 1999–9 Jan 2000; the image was captured at the former on 10 Dec. Photograph by Jim Cavanagh.



Because only the Ruby-throated Hummingbird occurs commonly in the East, all odd hummers receive close scrutiny. This winter was exceptional for odd hummingbirds in the East (see the "Changing Seasons"). Two noteworthy finds in Louisiana were this immature male Broad-billed Hummingbird (left) at Anne Gregory's 6 Nov 1999 and this adult male Broad-tailed Hummingbird (right) in Iberville Parish 21 Nov 1999. Photographs by Michael A. Seymour.



If you do not molt into ptarmigan-like winter plumage, you would not be particularly well-camouflaged in the snow. Such wisdom could hardly be more true if you are a gaudy adult male Vermilion Flycatcher (left) attempting to winter in western Montana at Victor Crossing, Ravalli. This devil-may-care bird appeared 2 Jan 2000, providing a first for Montana. But soon after it attracted the attention of birders, it attracted the hungry eye of a Northern Shrike (bottom left), to which it succumbed 11 Jan. Photographs by Claude Birkeneder.



Mountain Bluebirds are regular in western Texas, but this female at Port Aransas 8 Jan 2000 through the winter, and photographed 15 Jan, was at an unusual easterly locale on the Texas coast. Photograph by Jim Flynn.

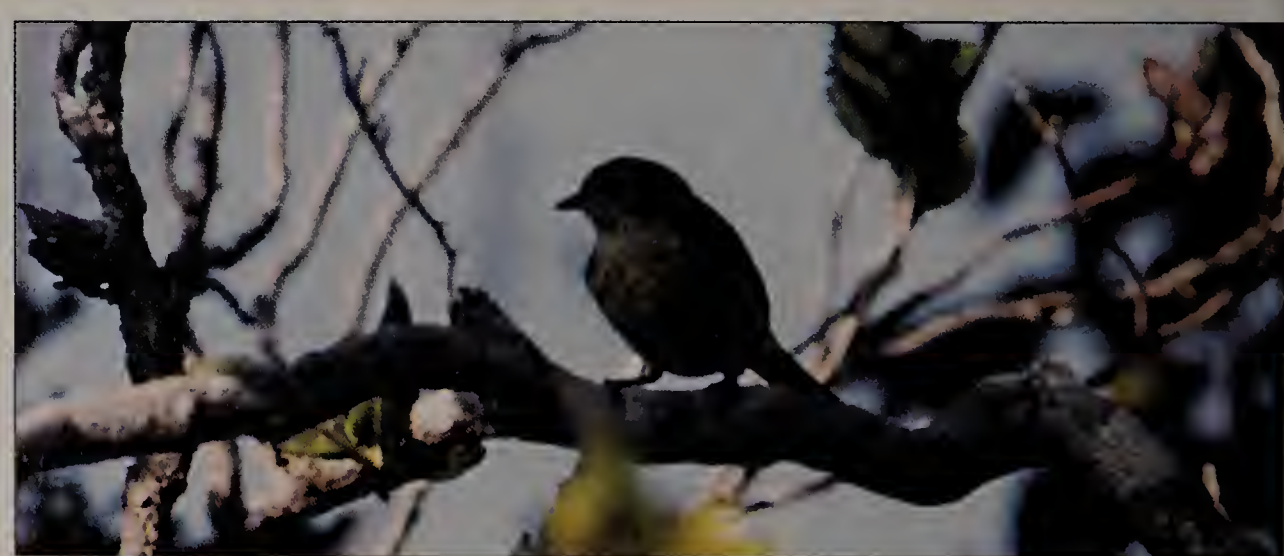
One or two Pine Warblers are found annually in California in winter and a few have wintered in southern Arizona. Despite this precedent for wintering in the West, few would have predicted one spending the season in the frigid temperatures of Moscow, Idaho. This hardy immature male was photographed 14 Dec 1999 during its lengthy stay from 7 Dec into at least early April. Photograph by Ray Hoff.

The skulking Le Conte's Sparrow is being found with increasing frequency in winter on the eastern escarpment of the continental divide. Small flocks have been found in recent years in eastern Colorado and eastern New Mexico, including eight near Colorado's John Martin Reservoir 2 Feb 2000 through the winter. The photo was taken 4 Feb. Energetic birders would do well to search wet reedy/grassy areas in this region during winter to determine if there is a small regular wintering population. Photograph by David A. Leatherman.

As noted for the Scott's Oriole, the Bullock's Oriole is a far more expected stray east of its normal range, but few are as a flashy as this lovely male in fresh plumage at a feeder in Elk Horn, Iowa. It was present 4 Nov 1999 through the end of winter, was photographed 18 Dec 1999, and represented only the third record for Iowa. Photograph by Thomas H. Kent.

The Lesser Nighthawk is rare in the United States in winter, with generally only one or two found in the Sonoran Desert of California. Thus, a midwinter bird far to the north at San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge 30 Dec 1999 was certainly unexpected. This male (note the white wing patch) provided the first winter record for the Middle Pacific Coast Region. Photograph by Joelle Buffa.

Kirtland's Warblers are rare and enigmatic; despite intense study of this species, its main wintering grounds have yet to be discovered. It is generally accepted that the species winters in the Bahamas. Nonetheless, there is a dearth of records for the main Bahamian Islands. Thus, this female photographed on southern Abaco 9 Jan 2000 was met with interest. Photograph by E. Bracey.



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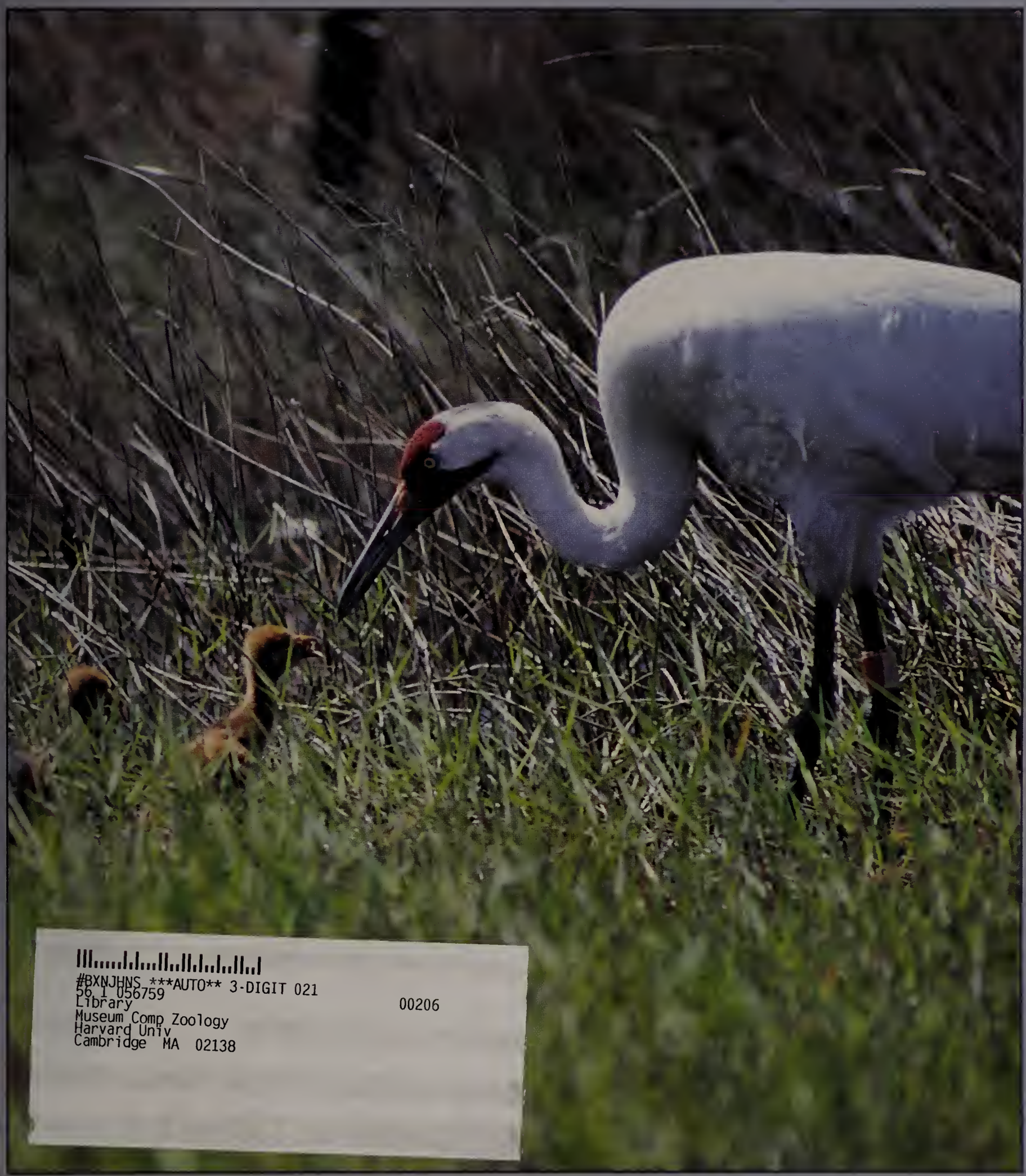

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contents

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 54: NUMBER 3 • 2000

spring migration: MARCH THROUGH MAY 2000

THE REGIONAL REPORTS

255 Atlantic Provinces
BLAKE MAYBANK

257 Québec
NORMAND DAVID, SAMUEL DENAULT, and PIERRE BANNON

259 New England
SIMON PERKINS

263 Hudson–Delaware
JOSEPH C. BURGIEL, ROBERT O. PAXTON, and DAVID A. CUTLER

268 Middle Atlantic Coast
MARSHALL J. ILIFF

272 Southern Atlantic Coast
RICKY DAVIS

274 Florida
BILL PRANTY

278 Ontario
DAVID H. ELDER

281 Appalachia
ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

284 Western Great Lakes
JIM GRANLUND

287 Middlewestern Prairie
KENNETH J. BROCK

291 Central Southern
B. MAC. MYERS and PHILLIP A. WALLACE

295 Prairie Provinces
RUDOLF F. KOES and PETER TAYLOR

235 The Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida: The Evidence Revisited
P. WILLIAM SMITH, GLEN E. WOOLFENDEN, and ALEXANDER SPRUNT IV

241 Range Expansion of the Glossy Ibis in North America
MICHAEL A. PATTEN and GREG W. LASLEY

248 Reintroduction of the Whooping Crane in Florida
STEPHEN NESBITT and MARTIN J. FOLK

249 Changing Seasons: Spring Migration 2000: The Millenium's Last Spring
CHRISTOPHER L. WOOD

332 Market Place

333 Pictorial Highlights

297 Northern Great Plains
RON MARTIN

— Southern Great Plains
The report for the spring migration in this area was not submitted by our copy deadline. It will appear in a future issue.

299 Texas
GREG W. LASLEY, CHUCK SEXTON, and MARK LOCKWOOD

304 Idaho–Western Montana
DAVID TROCHLELL

306 Mountain West
VAN A. TRUAN and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

310 Arizona
ROY M. JONES and GARY H. ROSENBERG

312 New Mexico
SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

315 Alaska
THEDE TOBISH

— British Columbia-Yukon
The report for the spring migration in this area was not submitted by our copy deadline. It will appear in a future issue.

318 Oregon–Washington
STEVEN G. MLODINOW, GERARD LILLIE, and BILL TWEIT

322 Middle Pacific Coast
SCOTT B. TERRILL, DANIEL S. SINGER, STEVEN A. GLOVER, and DON ROBERSON

326 Southern Pacific Coast
GUY McCASKIE and KIMBALL L. GARRETT

328 West Indies
ROBERT L. NORTON

330 Hawaiian Islands
ROBERT L. PYLE and PETER DONALDSON

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ON THE COVER

The Whooping Crane is emblematic of conservation efforts in the North America. Its population in the wild was perilously low by the mid-twentieth century, numbering no more than a few dozen. Intense management and protection have raised numbers to near 200 in the wild, yet this majestic crane remains one of our rarest birds. In the late 1990s wildlife managers have attempted to reestablish the species in some of its former haunts, notably as a breeding bird in Florida. Despite a drought, spring 2000 saw the first hatching of a Whooping Crane chick in the United States in 60 years. Even though this colt succumbed to a Bobcat (*Felis rufus*), it gave hope to the possibility that a Florida population would soon be established. For more information see Nesbitt and Folk's note in this issue. *Photograph by Martin J. Folk*

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The Loggerhead Kingbird in Florida: The Evidence Revisited

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ABSTRACT

The Loggerhead Kingbird (*Tyrannus caudifasciatus*), endemic to the West Indies, has been reported in Florida on at least six occasions, with three supported by archived photographs. These reports form the basis for the species' inclusion on the lists of birds known to occur in North America north of Mexico. However, after reviewing all the evidence we could locate, we concluded that none of the records claimed can be verified independently as definitely pertaining to a Loggerhead Kingbird. Depending upon the evidence available, the Giant Kingbird (*T. cubensis*), endemic to Cuba, Gray Kingbird (*T. dominicensis*), or Eastern Kingbird (*T. tyrannus*) appear to be among likely alternatives. We suggest, therefore, that the Loggerhead Kingbird be removed from formal lists of birds recorded from North America north of Mexico.

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the Upper Florida Keys Christmas Bird Count on 29 December 1971, Frances Hames and Mary Crane (both now deceased) observed an unexpected kingbird in Islamorada, "first taken to be an Eastern Kingbird" (*Tyrannus tyrannus*; Stevenson 1972), among a wintering flock of Western Kingbirds (*T. verticalis*) and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (*T. forficatus*). Two days later, the count's compiler (Sprunt) took a series of color photos of this bird. Although no longer recalling details, Sprunt may have suggested its identification as a Loggerhead Kingbird (*T. caudifasciatus*), a widespread Greater Antillean species never before reported in the United States, with which he had some limited prior field experience (Sprunt 1972). We know of no contemporary written field notes or analysis. At that time, photographs of endemic West Indian birds were not widely available; the principal illustrations were those in Bond (1971), many of which were simplified, even misleading. For the Loggerhead Kingbird, the illustration was merely a line drawing of a bird's head.

The report evidently was submitted as a Loggerhead Kingbird both for the Christmas Bird Count itself (Sprunt 1972) and to Henry Stevenson, that season's Regional Editor for *American Birds*. Two photographs (TTRS P25 and P26), both appearing to be differently magnified enlargements cropped from one of those taken by Sprunt 31 December 1971 (now TTRS P708, Fig. 1), were archived at Tall Timbers Research Station, where Stevenson kept an office. At least one photo of the bird was sent to James Bond at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. Bond must have conveyed his opinion about it both to Stevenson and to others; he also expressed it directly in print several years later without details (Bond 1978:3). Bond clearly considered the photo(s) he saw to pertain to a Giant Kingbird (*T. cubensis*), a Cuban endemic even less well-known than the Loggerhead and also rather poorly illustrated in Bond (1971).

Bond's opinion apparently was not well-received by some observers who saw the bird and who agreed with the identification then widely held by Florida birders. Edscorn (1972) wrote, for example, "Some question has arisen that the [first-ever Loggerhead Kingbird] was a Giant Kingbird (Cuban) based on photos . . . but those of us who saw the bird have no doubt." Stevenson (1972) referred to the bird as "*Tyrannus dubius*" [sic], however, and after summarizing the controversy, concluded that "neither of these two potentially new species for Florida can claim an unequivocal place on the state list."

The following winter, presumably the same bird reportedly returned to Islamorada. The timing and duration of its second stay were not published and a statement that it was photographed again

Figure 1. Kingbird photographed at Islamorada, Florida, 31 December 1971 (TTRS P708). This photograph and others were the primary basis for inclusion of Loggerhead Kingbird on the United States list, and later on the Florida list, despite the fact that James Bond believed it a Giant Kingbird. *Photograph by Alexander Sprunt IV.*

by Sprunt (Woolfenden 1973) is untrue. Further details pertaining to this later appearance seem unavailable. By now it had become "*The* Loggerhead Kingbird" (italics ours), although Woolfenden (1973) referred readers back to the controversy mentioned by Stevenson (1972).

No further claims of this species were made before the American Birding Association published its first checklist (ABA 1975a). That list failed to include either the Loggerhead or the Giant Kingbird. Perhaps spurred by comments from Floridians, the ABA did place the Loggerhead Kingbird on its first checklist supplement (ABA 1975b). Guy McCaskie, a member of the ABA Checklist Committee at that time, recalls (*in litt.*) no discussion of the merits of the addition of that species to the list or any review of the photos by the committee.

With the Loggerhead Kingbird established in the lore of Florida and American birding, there soon came subsequent reports. Two later observations are supported by photographs that are still archived: Miami 7–14 March 1976 (Stevenson 1976, TTRS P113 [Fig. 2] and P114), and Islamorada 25 November–17 December 1976 (Edscorn 1977, Stevenson 1977, TTRS P136). The two photos of the Miami bird were stated (Stevenson 1976, paraphrased) to be clear enough to allow removal of Loggerhead Kingbird from Florida's hypothetical list, an unofficial compilation that Stevenson apparently maintained. Additional claims were made in later years. At least one, "in the opinion of the observers, definitely not a Gray Kingbird (*T. dominicensis*)," was reportedly photographed (Kale 1977). The photos of the 1977 bird, apparently now lost, were stated by Kale (1977, paraphrased) "to illustrate the difficulty in determination . . . [for] it is not possible to easily separate [Loggerhead from Gray] in the field." None of the birds photographed in the 1970s apparently were described by written details. Of the handful of later sightings that reached print, none apparently were photographed and only one was submitted to the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee. That report was not accepted.

Eastern Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Loggerhead Kingbird, Giant Kingbird: confusion seems to have reigned during the period before good quality photos of some West Indian species, particularly Loggerhead Kingbird, reached the hands of active North American field birders. Because of the uncertainty surrounding previous events, primarily in the 1970s, that led to the Loggerhead Kingbird's addition to the state and national avifaunas, we believed it appropriate to review carefully some of the original photos in the context of modern knowledge about that species and to publish our results.

THE LOGGERHEAD KINGBIRD

The Loggerhead Kingbird (Figs. 3–6) is found throughout the Greater Antilles, east to Puerto Rico, west to Cuba and the Cayman Islands, and north to the northern Bahama Islands east of the southern end of the Florida peninsula. Historically, because of inter-island variation, each population was considered a separate species. During the 19th century the group, then generally known in English as petcharies, was usually placed in the genus *Pitangus* (now restricted to kiskadees) because of similarity in size and structure. Ridgway (1905) created a genus *Tolmarchus* for them, mostly because of differences in coloration and a broader, more depressed bill structure. He did not consider them members of *Tyrannus* (kingbirds) primarily because of their bill structure and because their primaries are short and rounded compared to kingbirds' relatively long, attenuated primaries (Ridgway 1907).

Combining all the petcharies into a single polytypic species was done with one simple elegant sentence by Hellmayr (1927): "According to my conception of specific units, the representatives of *Tolmarchus* on the various islands should be classed as subspecies, their characters being only differences of degree in size and col-

Figure 2. Kingbird photographed at Miami, Florida, 8 March 1976 (TTRS P113), said by Stevenson (1976), without stating a reason, to furnish evidence for removing Loggerhead Kingbird from Florida's (unofficial) hypothetical list. That statement may have reflected misunderstanding of its field characters. *Photograph by W. J. Bolte.*

oration." Bond (1936) supported this treatment but called the species "Loggerhead Flycatcher" (as did some others of the era, including Barbour 1923), asserting that the name 'petchary' was an onomatopoetic rendering of Gray Kingbird calls. After laying the groundwork in a footnote by asserting that *Tolmarchus* resembled *Tyrannus* more than *Pitangus* (Bond 1950: 97), *Tolmarchus* was combined into *Tyrannus* by Bond (1956:105). Presumably this union was based on his philosophy (e.g., Bond 1971:13) that taxonomy and nomenclature should emphasize similarities between birds rather than differences. Later Bond (1958:7) claimed support for his treatment of *Tolmarchus* from an obscure earlier paper by a German taxonomist. Thus the Petchary, or Loggerhead Flycatcher, became the Loggerhead Kingbird in Bond's subsequently published works (e.g., Bond 1971).

Figure 3. Loggerhead Kingbird (*jamaicensis*), St. James Parish, Jamaica, mid-February 1991. This figure, together with Figs. 4 and 5, illustrate most of the major field marks of the Loggerhead Kingbird from the western part of its range (Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, Caymans): Long bill not especially deep; short rounded primaries; squarish head often showing a small posterior crest; variably blackish cap and nape contrasting with grayish back; prominently whitish-edged wing coverts; whitish tail outline (most prominent on underside of tip); *Myiarchus*-like "jizz". *Photograph by M. C. Wheeler.*

To avoid possible confusion in the following discussion, we shall simply use the English name 'Loggerhead' for the Loggerhead Kingbird (*sensu* Bond 1971) and shall restrict the word 'kingbird' to members of strict *Tyrannus* (*sensu* Ridgway 1907). Most people familiar with Loggerheads in the field do not consider them particularly kingbird-like. The bill is long but not deep (*cf.* Figs. 4, 5), about three times longer from the nostrils to the tip than its depth at the nostrils. Kingbirds' bills, on the other hand, are relatively shorter and deeper, giving them a more wedge-shaped appearance when viewed laterally. The square-looking head shape with a slight posterior crest (*cf.* Figs. 3, 4) is a typical field character for Loggerheads; in the Cuban countryside they are even known as "*pitirre meñudo* (crested kingbird)" (P. Regalado Ruiz pers. comm.). However, individuals may mostly collapse their crests, as in Figs. 5 and 6. The relatively short length and rounded shape of the Loggerheads' primaries (*cf.* Figs. 3, 5) in all populations differs from the longer, more pointed wing shape of kingbirds and contrasts with a relatively longer tail compared to most kingbirds. Kingbirds' primaries also are mostly notched.

Figure 4. Loggerhead Kingbird (*caudifasciatus*), Cayo Coco, Cuba, 25 April 1999. *Photograph by J. Bangma.*

The plumage of Loggerheads varies between populations and therefore is difficult to characterize. The Cuban and Bahamian populations are those most likely to occur in Florida (Robertson and Kushlan 1984). All populations show a general uniformity in the dark color of the cap and nape, contrasting with the paler color of the back. The mainland Cuban *caudifasciatus* (Fig. 4) has a black cap/nape contrasting with a gray back, whereas the Bahamian *bahamensis* (Fig. 5) usually shows a dark ashy-brown cap/nape contrasting with a more olive gray-brown back. Cuban Loggerheads usually are entirely snowy white below (Fig. 4), whereas Bahamian Loggerheads usually are yellow-

Figure 5. Loggerhead Kingbird (*bahamensis*), Abaco, Bahamas, 12 March 1999. *Photograph by L. Manfredi.*

vented (Fig. 5), but these characters vary among individuals and with age and season. Both populations have considerable whitish edging on the wing coverts and most flight feathers (*cf.* Figs. 4, 5). Most tail feathers, especially including the outer, and the tips of the tail particularly on the underside, also are white (*cf.* Figs. 3, 5). The Jamaican *jamaicensis* (Fig. 3), the Grand Cayman *caymanensis*, and the Isle of Youth *flavescens* generally fall between the Bahamian and Cuban populations in overall appearance.

The populations *gabbii* of Hispaniola and *taylori* of Puerto Rico differ from the more western populations in having mainly rusty rather than whitish tips to the wing coverts and lacking most white in the tail, particularly on the underside of the tip (Fig. 6). Overall, these populations (*gabbii* and *taylori*) are browner above compared to any of the others. They also have relatively shorter tails than the other populations.

Behaviorally, Loggerheads tend to be shy and sluggish, although some populations, notably the Jamaican, may be more active and seem more visible. Pedro Regalado Ruiz, who has studied them in Cuba (pers. comm.), has found that Cuban Loggerheads typically hunt from woodland interior perches well below the canopy, where they often glean insects rather than hawk for them. Smith, who has seen representatives of six of the seven named populations, usually has observed them within a few meters of the ground, often appearing and behaving more like a *Myiarchus* than a *Tyrannus*.

The Giant Kingbird (Fig. 7), now confined to Cuba and considered rare even as long ago as the 1920s (Barbour 1923), is quite similar in plumage to the Cuban Loggerhead (distinctions are beyond the scope of this paper). Otherwise it is mostly like other kingbirds in proportions, except for its very large bill and relatively shorter tail. The Giant Kingbird now is officially classified as endangered (Collar et al. 1994). In the 19th century it was collected several times in the southern Bahamas (Great Inagua and Caicos Islands; Buden 1987).

Figure 6. Loggerhead Kingbird (*taylori*), Ciales, Puerto Rico, May 1997. This photo shows that Loggerhead Kingbirds from the eastern part of their range (Hispaniola, Puerto Rico) are browner overall, with much less white on the wings and tail, compared to other populations. *Photograph by L. Miranda.*

Figure 7. Giant Kingbird, Area Protegida "La Belén," Cuba, 17 February 1999. This image demonstrates the overall Loggerhead-like pattern of this species and its noticeably wedge-shaped bill. ***From video by G. Mackiernan.***

An old record from Isla Mujeres off the coast of Yucatán, Mexico (Salvin 1889), has been questioned (AOU 1998) although probably without a sound basis (Smith 2001). Whether such outlying records reflect a wider former breeding range or non-breeding dispersal is unknown. Because all outlying specimens were collected during winter (Salvin 1889, Buden 1987), the latter interpretation may be more likely.

DATA REVIEW

In reviewing the available photos from Florida, it was apparent that none of the birds photographed were clearly and unequivocally Loggerheads. Photographs of the Islamorada bird, taken in 1971 by Sprunt (e.g., Fig. 1), show a bird with plumage seemingly not unlike that of a Cuban Loggerhead but apparently without its structure. From the rounded head and its relatively short, wedge-shaped bill it appears to be a kingbird (*Tyrannus sensu* Ridgway 1907), possibly a Giant Kingbird as James Bond thought, although we are unprepared to identify it as such. Other photos (e.g., TTRS P703) show pointed primaries and other typical kingbird features.

The two archived photographs taken at Miami in March 1976 (e.g., Fig. 2), show a bird lacking not only the structure but also the plumage features of a Loggerhead. Based solely on these photos, we suspect that it is a wet and overly worn Eastern Kingbird, but again we leave the matter of correctly identifying it to others. Some literature suggests that the color of the crown patch (apparently yellowish especially in another photo of this bird) indicates that it is not an Eastern Kingbird; Ridgway (1907) stated that the shade of the crown patch in kingbirds varies depending on age, sex, and other factors. Without supporting documentation we do not know why this bird was identified as a Loggerhead and can only speculate that Stevenson's 1976 statement about the photos providing sufficient evidence to accord Loggerhead Kingbird an unequivocal place on Florida's state list was based on some misunderstanding of that species' appearance. Such a misunderstanding may have reflected the inadequate descriptions and illustrations then generally available (e.g., *cf.* Bond 1971). Photographs of the late autumn 1976 bird at Islamorada, both the one archived (TTRS P136) and others we were privileged to see, do not clearly show any plumage or structural characters of a Loggerhead. No photo of this bird that we saw is so clear and well-posed as to encourage us even to speculate about what the bird might have been.

We also reviewed field notes made available to us for two other Florida individuals identified as or thought to be Loggerheads (in addition to the archived photographs). The first, at Hypoluxo Island, Palm Beach Co., 5 October 1984 (Atherton and Atherton 1985), was reviewed by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (FOSRC 85-073) but was not accepted (Dowling 1988). We see no reason for this report to be reconsidered, for the descriptions fail to describe any characters that we believe are truly distinguishing of Loggerheads. The second, a bird at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Recreation Area, Miami-Dade Co., 11–12 September 1990 (hitherto unpublished), was sketched in the field by one of the observers (M. C. Wheeler) but was only described very simply from fairly brief sightings. The sketch and other field notes do suggest the plumage characters of some Loggerheads (e.g., Cuban), but they are not sufficiently detailed to rule out Giant or possibly other kingbirds. The observers withheld publication for that reason (M. C. Wheeler pers. comm.) and we see no basis for pursuing this report further. Other reports cited or alluded to by Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) or Stevenson and Anderson (1994) have no existing supporting details of which we are aware.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The photographs of the bird at Islamorada secured 31 December 1971, those previously archived (TTRS P25 and P26), plus the originals all taken by Sprunt on that date (now TTRS P698–P708; Fig. 1), in our opinion do not provide convincing evidence that this bird was a Loggerhead Kingbird. Sprunt no longer holds to his earlier belief that the bird he photographed was that species. Pending further review, we believe that its identity, the basis of Loggerhead Kingbird's addition to the American Birding Association checklist, instead should be considered uncertain.

We think that the photographs of birds at Miami and Islamorada in 1976 (TTRS P113 [Fig. 2], P114, and P136, et. al.) in themselves also are inadequate evidence to establish in either case that a Loggerhead Kingbird was photographed. We cannot deny the possibility in either case that a Loggerhead Kingbird might have been seen by the observers, but we see no unequivocal indication of that possibility in any of the photos available to us. No contemporary field notes were archived for these birds. We believe that Robertson and Woolfenden (1992) therefore were mistaken in considering that these photographs, along with those secured in 1971, provided satisfactory verifiable archived evidence that Loggerhead Kingbird ever has occurred in Florida.

To the best of our knowledge (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, AOU 1998), the presence of the Loggerhead Kingbird on scientifically based lists of birds known from Florida or elsewhere in North America north of Mexico rests primarily on the stated identification of these photographs. As far as we know, within the stated region, (a) no specimen has been taken, (b) no bird has been measured and studied in the hand, and (c) no sight report, whether supported by photos or not, has been carefully reviewed and then accepted as a Loggerhead Kingbird by any records or checklist committee. In the absence of additional supportive evidence, therefore, we recommend that Loggerhead Kingbird be removed from such "official" lists. This recommendation is *not* an opinion that Loggerhead Kingbird has never occurred in North America north of Mexico. We simply suggest that the verifiable evidence we are aware of is insufficient to confirm that it has.

If any lesson is to be learned from this exercise in hindsight, it is the value of curated archives, which allow earlier identifications to be reassessed. Another lesson is the potentially cascading effect of placing an apparently speculative identification of a generally unfamiliar species "on the record." We doubt that most of the subsequent inadequately supported reports of Loggerhead Kingbirds would have been made if the original probable misidentification had not received prominence. Perhaps if a Loggerhead Kingbird subsequently did appear in Florida or elsewhere north of Mexico, observers otherwise might have made a greater effort to document it thoroughly.

In retrospect, Henry Stevenson may have shown the best judgment in this matter by simply referring to the original bird as "*Tyrannus dubius*." Nearly thirty years later, that wisdom still continues to shine.

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Range Expansion of the Glossy Ibis in North America

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ABSTRACT

The Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) has steadily expanded its range in both the United States and Mexico since the early 1800s. In the United States, the species initially colonized Florida, where breeding was first detected in the 1880s. This ibis remained a local species in the country until the 1940s, when it expanded into the Northeast and elsewhere in the Southeast, west to Louisiana. Another period of range stability was followed by a burst of westward expansion in the mid-1980s, coupled with a rapid expansion throughout the Yucatán Peninsula. The species reached the West Coast in California and Colima shortly thereafter. It now occurs annually in the western United States east of the continental divide. The vast majority of records are of adults in full breeding condition, with most in April and May. We conclude the occurrence of the species in the West reflects a true range expansion, but this pattern in confounded by the relative ease of detecting full adults in spring.

INTRODUCTION

Most range expansions are slow, with many measured over geological time (e.g., McLeod and MacDonald 1997). We might expect this slow rate of expansion if a daughter species from a speciation event slowly adapts to new environments and micro-habitats as it radiates away from its point of origin. However, many range expansions occur extremely rapidly, some possibly in association with speciation events (Gaston 1998), but most through processes that are less clear. In a few cases range expansions have occurred as a result of adaptations to local environmental change (Hilbeck and Kennedy 1998) or in response to human modification of habitat (Peris et al. 1998). Furthermore, some expansions are cyclic, apparently in response to oscillations in food and climate (Patten and Erickson 2000). Unfortunately, we generally know little about mechanisms facilitating rapid range expansion, whether by a native (e.g., Post et al. 1993, Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1993, Rothstein 1994) or non-native

Figure 1. North American distribution of the Glossy Ibis ca. 1960 (A) and ca. 2000 (B). Dots on map B signify recent vagrant occurrences outside the current range.

Figure 2. Glossy Ibis in full breeding condition at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, 14 April 1996. The rich chestnut feathering throughout the head and neck is characteristic of Definitive Alternate plumage in both *Plegadis* species. *Photograph by Greg W. Lasley.*

Figure 3. Adult Glossy Ibis at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico, 19–24 April 1999, the second recorded in the state. *Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.*

species (e.g., Veit and Lewis 1996, Gipson et al. 1998, Lewis et al. 1999), although most hypotheses invoke anthropogenic habitat alteration.

The rapid range expansions underway by both of the *Plegadis* ibis exemplify our ignorance. Over the past three decades there has been a vast increase in the number of records of the White-faced Ibis (*P. chihi*) in eastern North America and a concomitant increase in records of the Glossy Ibis (*P. falcinellus*) in western North America. The range expansion of the latter species has been particularly striking. There were no valid records in the West in the mid-1980s (DeSante and Pyle 1986), but in just 15 years it has become regular on the eastern edge of the continental divide. During this same period the Glossy Ibis expanded its range southward into Mexico (Howell and de Montes 1989), was first detected breeding in Canada (McAlpine et al. 1988), and reached the Pacific Coast in both western Mexico (Howell 1994) and California (see below).

Herein we summarize the westward expansion of the Glossy Ibis and discuss several alternative hypotheses that could explain this phenomenon, ranging from an increase in observer awareness to a natural expansion into available marshland.

FORMER RANGE AND STATUS

Apart from its distribution through various portions of the Old World, the Glossy Ibis was formerly a bird of the southeastern United States. Data are limited, but it would appear that this species is a fairly recent colonist of the New World (Palmer 1962, Dunstan 1978), presumably arriving in a trans-Atlantic manner similar to the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). The first United States record was during Audubon's lifetime, furnished by a specimen from Great Egg Harbor, New Jersey, 7 May 1817 (Peterson and Peterson 1981). It was so rare in the New World at that time that Audubon encountered the species but once, near St. Augustine, Florida, 16 January 1832 (Peterson and Peterson 1981). Breeding records were not obtained until the 1880s (Palmer 1962). By the turn of the twentieth century it was only "rare and local" along the Gulf of Mexico and in Florida (Chapman 1912), with the largest breeding population numbering only ±50 pairs by the mid-1930s (Peterson and Peterson 1981).

However, the Glossy Ibis began to expand its range substantially during the 1940s, with birds pushing north to Long Island and west to Louisiana, becoming a breeding bird in New York by the early 1960s (Bull 1974) and north to Maine by the early 1970s (Oberholser 1974). This ibis first reached Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, and Venezuela during this time, although by the mid-1970s the species was "mainly a northern straggler to Central America and northern South America" (Blake 1977). Populations in these areas and westward along the Gulf of Mexico stabilized somewhat by the late 1970s/1980s, prior to another burst, this time to the west and south. Thus, by the early 1980s the Glossy Ibis was a bird of the southeastern United States and Atlantic Coast (Fig. 1), with local populations in the Greater Antilles, Costa Rica, and northern Venezuela and various vagrant records for eastern North America east of the Great Plains (A.O.U. 1983).

Figure 4. Breeding adult Glossy Ibis in a flooded field near the south end of the Salton Sea, ±12 km w. of Calipatria, Imperial County, California, 1 July 2000. This bird represented the third record for California. All four records for that state are since late August 1999. ***Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.***

RECENT RANGE EXPANSION

Beginning in the mid- to late 1980s, the Glossy Ibis began to push westward into Texas and southward into the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico (Fig. 1); its expansion into the latter area was well-documented by Howell and de Montes (1989). In Texas, the first record was of a bird at Ft. Worth 3–6 November 1983 and returning 20 October–15 December 1984 (Pulich 1988, Lasley 1989). Within a few years it was evident that the species was regular on the Upper Texas Coast (Fig. 2), with ±25 records west to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and to Austin and San Antonio on the Edwards Plateau (see below). It has even been recorded south to the lower Rio Grande Valley (Haynie 1993) and thrice far west in the Trans-Pecos region: at El Paso 29 April–4 May 1992 and twice at Balmorhea Lake, 29 April 1997 (Peterson and Zimmer 1998) and 2 May 2000 (Lasley et al. 2000). By 1995 so many records had accumulated that the species was dropped from the Texas Bird Records Committee review list (Haynie 1996).

Both Colorado and New Mexico have experienced similar increases. In the former, there were but four valid records by 1990, of individuals at Sweitzer Lake 27 March 1986, in Weld County 25–28 May 1988, near Erie 7–9 May 1989, and at Orlando Reservoir 4 July 1990 (Andrews and Righter 1992, B. K. Percival *in litt.*). By the end of the decade the species was annual in eastern Colorado, particularly in spring, with nearly 30 reports accumulating (W. P. Lisowsky *in litt.*). For example, ±10 were reported (but not necessarily documented) 26 April–13 July 1999 and 8 April–23 May 2000, including one in western Colorado, near Edwards, Eagle County, 24–28 April 2000 (Truan and Percival 1999, 2000).

Spring 1999 also saw Wyoming's first record, of a bird at Jackson 4 May 1999 (Truan and Percival 1999). Just a few years earlier, the species was added to the state list for New Mexico, when an adult in breeding condition was videotaped at Bosque Redondo, DeBaca County, 14–15 April 1995 (*New Mexico Ornithology Society Bulletin* 24:61, S. O. Williams *in litt.*). Since that time four–five additional records have accumulated, all of them in 1999 and 2000. Three were photographed during spring 1999, at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge 18–24 April (Fig. 3), Bitter Lake 24 April, and Santa Rosa 9 May (Williams 1999). In 2000 one was photographed at Bosque del Apache 21–22 April and what may well have been the same bird was seen there 12–13 May (S. O. Williams *in litt.*).

Despite an unconvincing report of a flock of 60 near La Paz, Baja California Sur, 25 May 1996 (Carmona et al. 1997), this species has reached the Pacific states only in Colima in western Mexico (Howell 1994) and in California. The first record for the latter was of an adult in Definitive Basic plumage at Twentynine Palms 29–31 August 1999 (McCaskie 2000). Three more birds were photographed in spring/summer 2000 near the south end of the Salton Sea in the vicinity of Calipatria in the Imperial Valley: an adult in Definitive Alternate Plumage 27 May–8 August (M. A. Patten et al.), another 1–15 July (Fig. 4; P. A. Ginsburg et al.), and a bird in Definitive Basic or First Alternate plumage 1–8 July (M. A. Patten et al.).

Thus, the past two decades have witnessed a significant increase of records of the Glossy Ibis in western North America ($r_s = 0.80$, $P < 0.01$), with a particularly sharp increase since the mid-1990s (Fig. 5). All birds west of the Great Plains have been detected from late March to late August, with a distinct peak from mid-April to mid-May (Fig. 6). The temporal pattern of records in the West is probably a combination of the real pattern and an artifact of identification ease. Because the Glossy Ibis retracts from more northerly climes during winter and returns to those areas during summer, it is reasonable to conclude that many records at this season are of spring "overshoots." Yet at the same time adult *Plegadis* in alternate plumage and full breeding condition are by far the easiest age class to identify, so we expect that records will be skewed toward spring. However, this species regularly undergoes post-breeding dispersal northward along the Atlantic Seaboard and elsewhere in the East. Thus, fall records of vagrants should also be expected, and a number of records for Texas are from September–November, including birds west to Fort Worth (Lasley 1989).

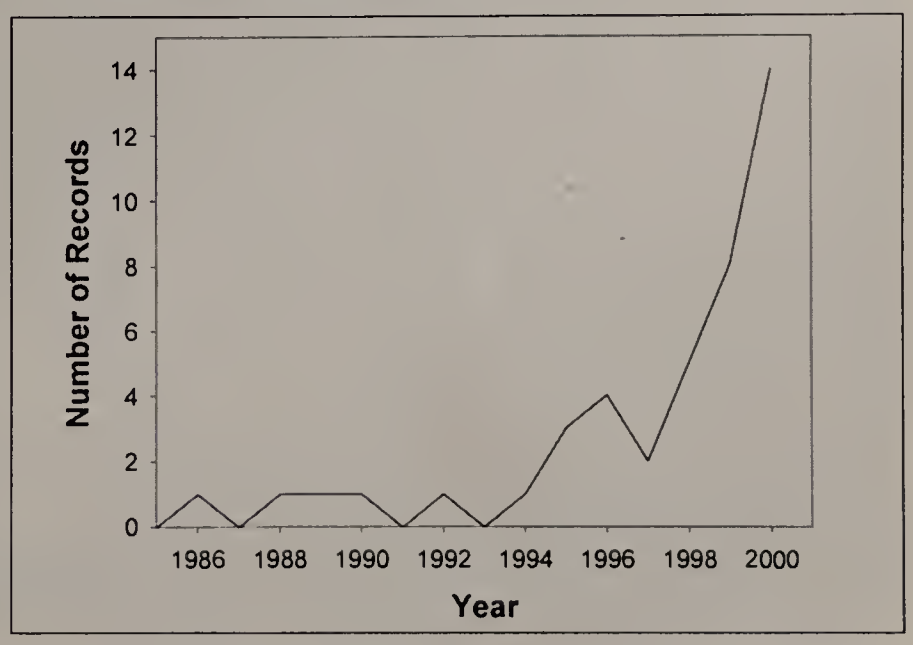

Figure 5. Records of the Glossy Ibis, 1984–2000, west of the Great Plains (west Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, California, and Colima).

IDENTIFICATION AND AGEING

The identification of *Plegadis* ibis requires close views, in good light, of bare-part pattern and coloration and feathering around these areas; various other plumage features are identical, as is voice. This topic has been covered well by Pratt (1976), Howell and de Montes (1989), Kaufman (1990), the National Geographic Society (1998), and Sibley (2000). However, there are important identification points that bear repeating. Furthermore, as it is with many species, properly judging age and condition is an important first step in identification, which is difficult when the bird is not in alternate plumage/breeding condition. Indeed, to our knowledge positive species-level identification of juveniles is impossible, even with a specimen, excepting relying on size extremes. The Glossy Ibis averages larger than the White-faced Ibis, sex for sex (Table 1; *contra* Sibley 2000); indeed, a Glossy amidst a large flock of White-faced is often the largest bird (Lasley per. obs.). Thus, the largest *Plegadis* should be male Glossy, whereas the smallest should be female White-faced. However, there is overlap in size (Table 1), making identification on measurements alone sometimes problematic.

Table 1. Mensural data for the Glossy and White-faced Ibis, presented as mean [range], in millimeters (data from Blake 1977). Note that, within sex, the Glossy averages larger, but there is overlap in measurements (especially the bill).

	flat wing	exposed culmen	tarsus
males			
Glossy (n = 11)	288.3 [275–294]	131.0 [127–137]	103.1 [99.2–112]
White-faced (8)	269.6 [261–280]	133.9 [118–143]	94.6 [91–98]
females			
Glossy (n = 8)	262.2 [252–275]	104.2 [95–114]	81.8 [78–88]
White-faced (10)	243.5 [238–249]	103.6 [100–111]	70.0 [63–73]

It is straightforward to distinguish between a *Plegadis* in Juvenal plumage and one in basic plumage. A uniform muddy-brown head and neck lacking white streaking and the dull brown underparts characterize Juvenal plumage (Kaufman 1990). Juveniles exhibit a variable amount of white splotching on the throat, which ranges from extensive (Fig. 7) to absent. At this age individuals tend to have a much shorter bill than do adults (Table 2), with full adult bill length being acquired within three–six months of hatching. Basic plumage, both Definite and Basic I, is characterized by a dark brown or brownish-gray head and neck covered with fine white streaking. Apparently Basic I and Definitive Basic are not distinguishable (Cramp and Simmons 1977), although there may be some tendency for adults to retain some purple iridescence in the wing coverts, whereas juveniles/first-winter birds are uniform green above (Howell and de Montes 1989). Based on an examination of specimens at the American Museum of Natural History, apparent adults in basic retain glossy purple undertail coverts, whereas immatures have dull green undertail coverts. Obviously, the color of these feathers would be difficult to assess in the field.

Table 2. Range of bill length (mm) of juvenile Glossy Ibises during the first six months of life (data from Cramp and Simmons 1977).

	Aug/Sep	Oct/Nov	Dec/Mar
male	98–113	108–132	120–134
female	86–102	95–103	101–111

As a result of the extreme difficulty or impossibility of separating a Basic I from a Definitive Basic bird, the timing of post-juvenal molt is of critical importance. Glossy Ibis generally do not undergo this molt until September/October (Cramp and Simmons 1977). Based on field experience, not on a definitive, quantitative study, it appears that post-juvenal molt takes place on the wintering grounds, as *Plegadis* that are still obvious fall migrants are in full Juvenal plumage even in late November. Conversely, around the Salton Sea in southeastern California, where thousands of White-faced Ibis regularly winter (Shuford et al. 1994), birds transitioning into Basic I can be seen by mid-August, but even there most retain full Juvenal plumage until later in the fall (Patten pers. obs.).

Adults in Definitive Alternate plumage are easily identified by the rich chestnut head and neck, glossy purple mantle and underparts, and glossy green wing coverts and tertials. The White-faced Ibis tends to show a bit less olive in the head at this season, but this feature varies substantially, such that most breeding adult *Plegadis* ibis look basically the same in general plumage color. The principal plumage difference, obviously, is the often broad but sometimes narrow border of white feathering surrounding the bare skin on the face of a White-faced Ibis, the feature that gives the species its name.

Birds in this plumage generally also exhibit breeding condition bare-part coloration, with the White-faced showing bright-red to moderate-pink facial skin and the Glossy showing dark-blue to grayish facial skin. The latter species has well-defined blue, bluish-white, or pale gray borders to the facial skin, both from the eye to the culmen (the loral stripe) and the eye to the gape (Pratt 1976, Kaufman 1990). These stripes are on the skin itself; the feathering surrounding the face is wholly dark. The loral stripe bulges toward the middle, whereas the lower stripe is even in width, such that the loral stripe is bolder and easier to see (Jonsson 1992; *cf.* Fig. 4). Also, the loral stripe crosses over the base of the culmen, but the lower one stops at the gape (white feathering surrounding the facial skin of a White-faced Ibis crosses under the chin). Note that some White-faced Ibis show a pale loral stripe on the facial skin, but this stripe is narrow, ill-defined, and present only on adults, which have pink/red facial skin and thus do not pose an identification problem anyway (Howell and de Montes 1989, National Geographic Society 1998).

Leg and bill color is more variable, with the differences oversimplified in most field guides (e.g., National Geographic Society 1998). The White-faced Ibis does tend to have uniform red legs when in high breeding condition, but we note many Glossy Ibis in the same condition can show all red legs. Similarly, although the Glossy tends to have gray legs with red intertarsal joints ("knees"), we note this same pattern on many White-faced Ibis. Bill color is even more variable, with perhaps that of the White-faced averaging slightly pinker, although not enough so to be an aid to identification. Lastly, adult White-faced Ibis have bright red irides; adult Glossy Ibis and all immature *Plegadis* have brown irides (Howell and de Montes 1989, Kaufman 1990).

Diagnostic adult bare-part coloration is generally not acquired until December or January of the first year of life. Many *Plegadis* in Basic I plumage cannot be identified either, although some hatch-year *P. chihi* acquire red eyes by September (Patten pers. obs.) and some hatch-year *P. falcinellus* acquire pale facial stripes by August (Howell and de Montes 1989, S. E. Finnegan pers. comm.) or exceptionally in July (J. L. Dunn pers. comm.). However, many immatures will lack diagnostic bare-part coloration until their first spring (i.e., when they are 9-10 months old), and thus will not be identifiable.

Plegadis ibis take two years to acquire full adult plumage, but

Alternate I and Basic II are extremely similar to corresponding adult plumages. Therefore, adults in Definitive Basic plumage and all birds by their first spring should have species-specific bare-part coloration, at least in terms of eye color and facial skin color/pattern. As a result, adults in winter can be identified with good views in good light, as the facial skin will be dark gray with well-defined whitish or pale grayish borders on a Glossy Ibis (Fig. 8) but will be dull pink on a White-faced Ibis (Fig. 9), with the latter also having red eyes. However, we note that eye color can be surprisingly difficult to determine without good light and good optics (and with the bird fairly close). Even so, on California's first Glossy Ibis, a bird in Definitive Basic or Basic II/Alternate I at Twentynine Palms 29–31 August 1999, "The bare facial skin was fairly dark gray, lacking either red or blue tones. The upper edge of the facial skin was bordered by a distinct pale gray stripe that ran from the upper edge of the eye to the base of the culmen, and bulging outward in the center. The lower edge of the facial skin was also bordered by a distinct gray stripe, this one a bit thinner and less visible at a modest distance and running from the lower edge of the eye to the gape. It curved downward slightly at the gape, but did not cross under the chin" (Patten pers. obs.). It was thus identifiable as a Glossy Ibis, despite not being in alternate plumage or breeding condition.

As a final cautionary note, we note that the White-faced Ibis is undergoing an eastward expansion that mirrors that of the Glossy, with vagrant records now annual on the Atlantic Coast. Co-expansion of these sister species has brought them into sympatry in southern Louisiana (A.O.U. 1998, J. V. Remsen pers. comm.) and recently along the central coast of Texas (Lasley et al. 1997), but hybridization has not yet been detected. However, these species "freely interbred" in captivity (Palmer 1962:517), so we anticipate that hybrids will occur in nature (see Patten 2000). Potential hybridization obviously adds a complicated and tricky wrinkle to field identification, but the possibility should be borne in mind if an ibis is encountered that exhibits mixed or intermediate characters.

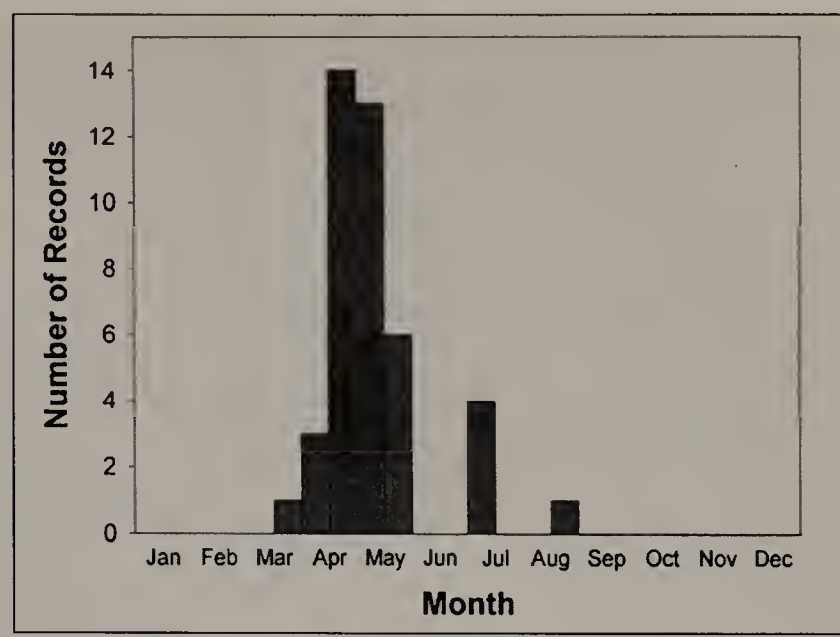

Figure 6. Seasonal pattern of Glossy Ibis records west of the Great Plains.

Figure 7. Typical *Plegadis* in Juvenal plumage, in this case a White-faced Ibis at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, California, 16 August 1991. The extent of splotchy white feathers on the chin and throat is variable, ranging from extensive to essentially absent. Regardless, this splotching is characteristic of Juvenal plumage only. Note the lack of white streaking on the head and neck, with each instead being uniform muddy brown. Identification to species is generally impossible at this age (except by range). *Photograph by Michael A. Patten.*

Figure 8. Typical adult Glossy Ibis in basic plumage at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, 6 March 1997. The white streaking throughout the head and neck is characteristic of basic plumage and is not found on birds in juvenal plumage. Pale facial stripes remain through winter, but vary in conspicuousness from distinctive to rather faint but visible with a careful study. *Photograph by Greg W. Lasley.*

CONCLUSIONS

The Glossy Ibis is rapidly expanding its range westward, with records now annual on the eastern slope of the continental divide and westward to western Colorado, inland California, and coastal Colima, Mexico. This expansion appears to be a real phenomenon, perhaps related to the creation of wetland habitats (e.g., sewage ponds, golf courses) in the previously arid portions of the southern Great Plains and the desert Southwest. The vast majority of records of the Glossy Ibis in the West are of adults in high breeding condition in April and May, suggesting a strong element of observer bias is involved. Still, both *Plegadis* are migratory, retracting from northerly climes in winter, so the possibility that spring records are the result of a preponderance of spring overshoots cannot be eliminated, as it is clearly confounded with detectability. Nevertheless, we suspect that careful scrutiny of adults in winter will yield further records in the West. Additional field data, with an accurate picture of seasonal occurrence, will be needed to determine the extent and rate of range expansion and thence to explore causal factors behind the expansion.

Figure 9. Typical White-faced Ibis (right) in basic/first-alternate plumage, with a like-plumaged Glossy Ibis (left), at Mitchell Lake near San Antonio, Texas, 12 May 1991. The red iris and dull pink facial skin remain through the winter, but sometimes require close views to be seen well. *Photograph by Greg W. Lasley.*

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Reintroduction of the Whooping Crane in Florida

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Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*) occurred in Florida historically, and a few individuals persisted into the 1920s. Whether these cranes nested in the state is unknown, but there was a permanent, breeding population of Whooping Cranes in Louisiana, which became extirpated in the 1940s. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is the lead agency participating in a large-scale project to restore the Whooping Crane into former range in the southeastern United States. Other agencies involved in this cooperative effort are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Canadian Wildlife Service, International Crane Foundation, Calgary Zoo, and San Antonio Zoo.

The project began in December 1980. Our first objective was to determine if a population of non-migratory Whooping Cranes, similar to the former Louisiana population, could be developed from genetically migratory stock. (All remaining Whooping Cranes were migratory). Migratory and non-migratory subspecies of Sandhill Cranes were used in place of Whooping Cranes to answer the question of whether migration in cranes is an acquired (learned) or innate (genetically encoded) characteristic. Our initial studies proved that non-migratory cranes could be produced from migratory stock. Also, work on Sandhill Cranes in Florida and elsewhere identified the most appropriate technique to reintroduce cranes in former range. In 1988 the FWC presented the results of our study to the Whooping Crane Recovery Team. In addition to Florida, the team was considering proposals for a population in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia, and in Michigan. In 1990, Florida's Kissimmee Prairie was selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the most promising place to attempt the inaugural reintroduction of Whooping Cranes into eastern North America.

The first release of 14 Whooping Cranes occurred in February 1993. Between 19 and 48 cranes have been released annually, with a total to date of 208 individuals. There are currently just over 80 Whooping Cranes alive in Florida. The technique we are using to release the birds is called soft- or gentle-release. This involves a protracted period of acclimation in specially constructed release pens. This is followed by a gradual transition to life on their own. The majority of the birds we have released were 8 to 10 months old. They have been hatched and reared from eggs laid in captivity.

Results from other cranes reintroduction projects led us to expect that initial mortality would be high (perhaps 40 to 60%), and that predation would be the major source of mortality. During the first two release years, annual mortality averaged 66%, mostly due to predation by Bobcats (*Felis rufus*). In the third year, we began using smaller, temporary release pens that allowed us to release cranes into the best available habitat. A major component of this new approach was the cooperation of the private landowners. Since 1995 we have released Whooping Cranes on five privately-owned ranches, and annual mortality has dropped to 44%. Without the cooperation of these landowners, this improved survival rate would not have been possible.

Last year (1999) marked the first that reintroduced Whooping Cranes laid eggs in Florida, but one clutch was flooded out and the other was depredated. In spring 2000 another milestone occurred, despite severe drought conditions. A pair of Whooping Cranes produced the first chicks in the wild in the United States in 60 years! The eggs hatched on 16 and 18 March. Within two weeks one chick was lost to unknown causes. A Bobcat killed the surviving chick shortly before fledging. By that time, the marshes used by the cranes had literally dried up under their feet. The chick was not yet flight-capable so it suffered the fate of many Florida Sandhill Crane chicks during drought years. We were well aware that with the drought the odds were not in favor of the chicks' long-term survival.

In spite of this loss the season was a resounding success. A pair of Whooping Cranes raised in captivity and released into the wild nested successfully and produced chicks. Sixteen other pairs of cranes were identified this year in Florida and two of these also produced eggs. We were impressed by the successful pair's nest attendance and that they hatched both eggs. The male and female were each less than 5 years of age. The parents seemed to have no problem finding sufficient food for the chicks. For several weeks post-hatching the parents fed the chicks many small prey items, including crayfish, small frogs, and aquatic insects. As the surviving chick grew, the size of prey items that the parents offered it grew. Snakes and aquatic salamanders became important in the chick's diet.

During this year's breeding season it was fascinating to watch the changes in behavior in the parents of the first successful nesting. After years of watching Whooping Cranes in Florida, we saw "new" behaviors that were brought out by their parental urges. While raising the chick the adult cranes displayed a level of awareness that we had not seen previously. Likewise, this project moved to a level where we now know that reintroduced Whooping Cranes can reproduce successfully. In the not-too-distant future, it seems likely that we can have a self-sustaining population of Whooping Cranes in Florida.

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Changing Seasons: Spring 2000: The Millenium's Last Spring

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Now that the true Millennium's last spring is past, let us pause for a moment and ponder. Why do we bird? Yikes, a rather philosophical question to open "Changing Seasons." Fear not. I am neither so wise, nor so stupid, as to attempt to tackle that question. Perhaps, though, I am just wise enough, or just ignorant enough, to suggest one possibility. It is because, as Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Little Prince observed, "one never knows."

Every time we go into the field, we never know what we will find. This lack of foresight, more than anything, explains why birders continue to get up at God-knows-what-time every day they can for the entire month of May. While it might be difficult to explain to a non-birding spouse, co-workers, or the others on your high school soccer team, this lure of the unknown, of finding something "new," is something all birders relish. Indeed, this addiction to discovering an avian surprise, whatever the degree of rarity, separates birders from birdwatchers.

Sometimes, one does not even need to go birding to find something exciting. People who were not even looking for birds at the time found two of this season's highlights! Mark Janos was drinking coffee on his porch in a suburb of Pueblo, Colorado, one morning when he heard and eventually saw a singing Yellow-bellied Flycatcher—a potential first state record. Or picture this: you are driving on the parkway, running a bit late. For some reason, you notice a flock of gulls and observe an unusually large, long-winged bird among them. Pelican? Gannet? Cormorant? Nothing fits. The bird abruptly makes a U-turn and flies straight toward you. It is an albatross! This is exactly what happened to Shawneen Finnegan while she was driving to her art opening at the Cape May Bird Observatory Research Center. Amazingly, this albatross was, presumably, first seen by park rangers at Fire Island, New York, and was responsible for sightings in four, if not five, states (see S.A.s in the Hudson-Delaware and New England regions). Most of us, of course, are not this lucky; we must actually go birding to find such amazing things. This spring, birders also reported a number of surprises, including numerous early arrival dates throughout the United States and Canada, a multitude of regional rarities, and what might be the last in a long series of first North American records from Attu in spring (at least for some time), a Rufous-tailed Robin (*Luscinia sibilans*).

"WINTER" INTO SPRING

With yet another preceding mild winter, some may question if winter had ever arrived this year. Carolina Wrens, a bird that epitomizes northward expansion during warm winters, remained throughout the winter in scattered northern locations. Their presence in parts of Québec caused that region's editors to ask if the wrens are establishing a permanent presence in that region. Red-bellied Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Northern Cardinals continued similar seasonal expansions. More extraordinary, Rufous Hummingbirds were seen until mid-March in Tennessee and mid-April in North Carolina. Farther south, Georgia's second and South Carolina's first Calliope Hummingbirds also remained into the spring period. While these may not be part of an unequivocal expansion per se, the successful wintering of hummingbirds is certainly increasing in parts of the Southeast.

As Michael Patten noted in the last "Changing Seasons" (Patten 2000), a number of northern species appeared in the opposite locations from those in which we would expect if only global warming were involved in these range alterations. Lingerers from the finch invasion of last fall and winter included Red Crossbills in Georgia until late April, Evening Grosbeaks on the Outer Banks of North Carolina 29 April, and a dead Common Redpoll found at Torrance Ranch, Nevada, in May. Two of Florida's first three state records of Rough-legged Hawks remained until 19 April. Exceptional March gulls included an Iceland in Washington, an Ivory Gull along the Wisconsin/Minnesota border, and a probable Slaty-backed in Texas. Coloradoans, meanwhile, experienced "gull-mania" by recording the state's first Slaty-backed Gull, its second and third records of Iceland Gull, and enough Lesser Black-backed and Thayer's Gulls that obtaining accurate counts was all but futile (see the Mountain West S.A.). Lest anyone conclude that these gulls were part of a massive push from the north, consider that California Gulls, which required documentation on some Denver area Christmas Bird Counts five years ago, outnumbered Herring Gulls throughout the winter and spring for the first time ever in Colorado (personal observations).

Gulls and loons are predominantly "winter specialties," at least in the Lower 48. While ducks, geese, and blackbirds are some of the earliest spring migrants, the first birds in the season that really cause "spring excitement" are shorebirds. From the Pacific Northwest to the Great Lakes and the Texas Panhandle, many commented on excellent diversity and numbers of shorebirds. Tens of thousands of American Golden-Plovers in central Illinois must have been a spectacular sight. The same must have been true of the six Pacific Golden-Plovers at Brady, Washington, which established a new spring daily high for the Lower 48 for that species. Snowy Plovers bred at Bolivar Flats, the first time in 70 years for that part of Texas, and one in Indiana established

that state's fourth record. Wilson's Plovers captured headlines on both coasts, with California recording its ninth and one in New York breaking the early arrival date for this regional rarity by a month. A Wandering Tattler at Antelope State Park, Utah, furnished another rare inland record for this coastal shorebird. Minnesota recorded its first Long-billed Curlew in nearly a decade, which is encouraging for this historic breeder in that state. Hudsonian Godwits showed up in a number of unusual locations, including one in Oregon providing the third spring record there, and eight at American Falls Reservoir providing only the fifth Idaho record. More than quadrupling Indiana's previous high count, 52 Marbled Godwits briefly touched down south of Bloomington. Well-documented White-rumped Sandpipers in southern California and in Arizona caused excitement; each locale has ten or fewer previous records. A Baird's Sandpiper at Napatree Point furnished the first spring record for Rhode Island and one of only a small handful of spring records from the Northeast. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, much more unusual in spring than in fall, were found in Orange County, California, and at New River Mouth, which provided a first spring record for Oregon. Along with the more regular coastal reports of Curlew Sandpipers, individuals were recorded in Illinois and Wisconsin, and a rarely-reported basic-plumaged bird was found in the Florida Panhandle. Also of note was Oregon's second spring Stilt Sandpiper. Newburyport Harbor, Massachusetts, a traditional Ruff hotspot, was seemingly one of the few locations where the species was not found this spring. Ruffs made impressive appearances elsewhere, with reports stretching along the East Coast from Connecticut to South Carolina; others appeared in Oregon, California, and Illinois. While not your typical shorebird, an American Woodcock recorded by Colorado birders was the first displaying in the state.

Following the trend of recent years, this spring brought a number of early migrants to the United States and Canada. It may be tempting to suggest this trend results from growing numbers of birders getting out early in the season. However, given the cornucopia of states and provinces with early arrivals, many of which established regional early arrival dates, most of these early reports are best treated as *bona fide* early birds. Just as surprising as the number of records is the variety of unrelated species that arrived early. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was found 7 March in Ontario. Point Pelee's record-early Mississippi Kite on 6 May was eclipsed by early arriving kites in Massachusetts, which included a Swallow-tailed on 27 March and a Mississippi on 29 March. A singing Whip-poor-will in Maryland on 9 March was the earliest for that state. The regional reports are filled with record-early passerine reports. An astonishingly early Philadelphia Vireo appeared in North Dakota on 28 April. Two Yellow-throated Vireos appeared in Maryland by the end of March. A Yellow-throated Warbler on 2 April may have been New York's earliest, and a Black-throated Green arrived in late March in Illinois. A Canada Warbler seen in Ohio on 26 April attests that early arrivals were not necessarily limited to birds that winter in parts of the U.S., nearby Mexico, or the Caribbean; this species winters almost exclusively in northern South America. Yet, given the mild winter, how can we be certain that birds like the Indigo Bunting on 3 April in Pennsylvania and Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 5 April in Oregon did not winter nearby?

RARITIES, HYBRIDS, AND OTHER MUSINGS

Perhaps the most exciting manifestation of "one never knows" is the discovery of some type of "first." Whether a first county record, first provincial record, first regional record, or even a first North American record, any type of "first" is sure to get the blood boiling. The number of significant firsts is obviously very limited, but any record for which there are fewer than five to ten records, the so-called mega-rarity, is bound to cause excitement. These sightings have an added dimension of importance. It is well-known that detailed recordkeeping allows us to track the expansion of non-native species such as Cattle Egret and Eurasian Collared-Dove (Romagosa and McEneaney 1999). Perhaps less obvious is how documentation of Yellow-billed Loons (Patten 2000) and other rarities have allowed us to recognize changes in North American distributions. For instance, the now widespread and common Herring Gull was once considered uncommon to rare in parts of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain Region (Bailey and Niedrach 1965). While most mega-rarities probably will not change their North American status in the next few years, some, like Herring Gulls and Eurasian Collared-Doves, undoubtedly will.

This season, Eurasian Collared-Doves and, to a lesser extent, their North American emulators, Inca and White-winged Doves, continued their tireless expansion throughout portions of North America, as detailed in the various regional reports. Dove expansion, I must admit, is somewhat akin to the split of Gunnison Sage-Grouse. While each is fascinating in its own way, neither drives our enjoyment of birding. More exciting expansions included Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Nevada, Arizona, North Carolina, southern New Jersey (four), and Maryland, as well as nesting pairs in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia.

Birders found a number of other remarkable vagrants this spring. Eared Grebes made it all the way to Ontario and Alaska, the latter providing only the second state record. Anhingas in New Mexico and Iowa provided each state with its third record. A Tricolored Heron at Cardinal Marsh was Iowa's third. A Wood Stork arrived in Arizona at the end of the season. Ibis staged impressive wanderings, with two White Ibis in New Mexico and another, Colorado's third, at Barr Lake. White-faced and especially Glossy Ibis continued their impressive peregrinations (see Patten and Lasley 2000, this issue). Odd cormorants included a Neotropic in Illinois and two Greats in Ontario. In March, Wisconsin hosted a Long-billed Murrelet and its first Smew, an adult male. Some suspect the latter may be the same bird that was seen in Minnesota last spring. A Common Teal (or do we have to still call it Eurasian Green-winged Teal?) in Montana established a rare record away from the coasts. An adult male Tufted Duck in Colorado, only the second recorded in the state, may not have been as astonishing as the estimated 1,000 Greater Scaup at the same location. The continuously increasing number of reports of out-of-range kites included White-taileds in Wisconsin and Minnesota, the latter state's first. Aplomado Falcons were reported in two astonishing locations: an oil rig off Texas, likely one of the introduced birds, and another at the Sandia Hawkwatch in New Mexico, probably a genuine wild bird. Not typically thought of as a potential vagrant, the record of a Willow Ptarmigan in Cumberland, Maine, in mid-May fell within the four-week span of New England's other four records (see the New England S.A.). Pennsylvania recorded its long-overdue first Long-tailed Jaeger. A White-winged Tern in Québec finally ended the five-year drought of North American records. Just outside the official spring season, but well within the expected spring migration timing was an Arctic Tern at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Illinois, on 3 June.

Texas hosted its eighth Mangrove Cuckoo; all have been of the expected *continentalis* subspecies from eastern Mexico. A shelter belt in Morton County, Kansas, hosted a Flammulated Owl, rarely noted in migration and Kansas's first. A minimum of 150 Vaux's Swift was observed in Reno, while an exhausted White-throated Swift was picked up in downtown Minneapolis. A Violet-green Swallow at an offshore platform in Louisiana in late March would add another first state record as a result of the Migrants Over the Gulf Project. Rare hummingbirds included Texas's fourth Berylline, Washington's second Costa's, and New Mexico's fourth Ruby-throated. A Lewis's Woodpecker in Ontario was among Canada's finest rarities. While not

the most beautiful bird of the season, a Hammond's Flycatcher banded at John Heinz N.W.R. was the first for Pennsylvania. Eastern Phoebes wandered west, providing Washington's third and Oregon's sixth records. Fork-tailed Flycatchers lived up to their reputation as one-day wonders in both Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Georgia recorded its first Bell's Vireo, while North Carolina recorded its fifth Black-whiskered Vireo. Rarely found far from its breeding and wintering grounds, a Plumbeous Vireo in Minnesota earned the title "Vireo of the Season." A Redwing in Québec established only the ninth North American record of this Eurasian thrush. Birders in New York found the state's first Sprague's Pipit while looking for a Western Meadowlark, itself a good New York bird.

A Gray-crowned Yellowthroat at Santa Ana N.W.R. highlighted the rare warblers, with Townsend's in North Carolina and Ontario and a Black-throated Gray in Minnesota only slightly behind. Wyoming recorded its second Prairie Warbler and Idaho its second Northern Parula. New York and Colorado each recorded a Swainson's Warbler this season. Continuing last year's spring wanderings, Painted Buntings were again found far from their normal haunts, including birds in Ontario, Illinois, Wyoming, and Nevada. On the heels of the recent split, Georgia added its first known Spotted Towhee this season. Colorado birders finally used appropriate techniques to find Baird's Sparrows, which resulted in as many spring reports as previously accepted state records. A Le Conte's Sparrow banded on the Isles of Shoals was the first recorded in New Hampshire. A Gray-headed Junco in Louisiana was the most southeasterly sighting ever of this sub-species. Montana recorded only its second Great-tailed Grackle and third Lesser Goldfinch.

THE "UNCERTAIN" RECORDS

As Patten (2000) discussed, it is often impossible to know if a bird arrived naturally at some given location. While outlining some useful criteria to help determine the wildness of a bird, he concluded that some may not fall neatly into one category, as has again occurred this season. Topping the list of "natural occurrence uncertain" birds this spring was a Black-backed Oriole near Imperial Beach, California, which, if wild, would be the first for the ABA area. Three, and possibly five, Greater Flamingoes in South Texas were of the expected Caribbean subspecies, raising hope that these birds were genuine vagrants (see the Texas S.A.). A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in New Jersey fits with the pattern of increasing reports of this species along the Atlantic Coast and would be the state's first. The origin of a White-faced Whistling-Duck in Florida, where the species is commonly kept in captivity, may never be known.

While uncertainties over origin create one problem for records committees, other concerns may be raised over the potential for a hybrid. Consider the Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal, which rarely hybridize. When such a hybrid is found, such as one this spring in Montana, it usually raises interest even when both parent species are regular breeders in that region. With alternate-plumaged male teal, this does not present much difficulty for identification. But female, juvenile, or eclipse-plumaged male hybrid teal would be nearly impossible to identify. Hybrids, almost by definition, are very rare, so rare that they elicit comment even in the core ranges of the parental species. But, if we accept that some aspects of migration are controlled by genetics (Berthold 1996), a hybrid possessing genes from a species that is regular in a region would become more likely than would a vagrant. This spring, a male Cinnamon Teal was found in Thunder Bay, Ontario. A bird the regional editors reported as a "female teal" later joined it. While the specific identity of this bird is unknown, eliminating a hybrid from contention is difficult. Another cautionary tale comes from Arkansas, where American Black Ducks, Mottled Ducks, and a probable Mottled Duck x Mallard were all reported at one location.

A similar point is raised by a bird considered to be a hybrid Black-capped x Blue-gray Gnatcatcher that has been seen in Chino Canyon, Arizona, since 1996. Within the normal range of Black-capped Gnatcatcher, one would seldom need to consider a hybrid. Once a bird is out of range, however, it usually lacks any potential mates. At this point, if a bird is going to breed, it will need to do so with another species. The result is a much higher potential for hybrids where the species is rare, than within the species' core range. A host of other factors complicates matters to the degree that assessing the likeliness of a hybrid versus that of a pure bird becomes as complicated as determining if a bird is wild. Unlike the origin question, which may be impossible to resolve, careful observation of any vagrant and thoughtful consideration of potential hybrids will likely lead us to the correct identification.

One final type of uncertain record is that for which details are never received. The Internet and e-mail increase our ability to share information in a rapid manner. Through these media, we are able to learn of rarities more quickly than ever. In recent issues of *North American Birds*, however, a distressingly voluminous cry from regional editors concerns birds reported to various state list servers, or elsewhere in the so-called "e-world," for which details are never produced. Sandy Williams writes in this issue's New Mexico regional report how some reports of rarities "never got beyond the ephemeral level of an Internet rumor." It is not the regional editor's responsibility to monitor e-mail and list serves---detailed written reports should still be sent directly to the regional editor. Undoubtedly some of this arises from the growth of birding and a lack of understanding in how to document rarities or why rarities need to be documented. Luckily, several fine references explain how to write detailed documentation (Dittmann and Lasley 1992, Wilds and Hilton 1992). Written documentation encourages us to look more carefully at birds, making us far better birders.

ATTU—THE END OF AN ERA, AND BEYOND

Many will remember the last spring of the Millenium not only for what it brought but also for what it brought to a close. This spring marked the end of the most prized trip for any North American birder, a late spring trip to Attu. By the time you read this column, birders will have completed a September scouring of Attu, bringing an end to foreseeable organized trips there. Changes in military and FAA regulations, aging airplanes, and a variety of other difficulties have forced ATTOUR to abandon trips to the island after 22 years of bird tour operations. We owe Larry Balch and the many others responsible for these tours our thanks for conducting what Thede Tobish calls "an irreplaceable chapter of Alaska and North America's avifaunal history."

To readers of this publication, Attu needs no introduction. Even birders who have never been there can imagine it, sitting out at the end of the Aleutian Islands, forcing the international date line to angle around it and the other western Aleutians. This proximity to Siberia makes it a regular stop for some Siberian species such as Eurasian Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Wood Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, and Brambling. Yet many of these species can be found elsewhere in North America, albeit with more difficulty. There is something different about that island, however. Something else that propels us to endure canceled flights, leaky roofs, and constant dampness like no place else: vagrants—and Siberian ones in particular.

The lure of birding Attu is comparable to the lure of everyday birding magnified a thousand times. On any given birding day in North America, one never knows what one will find. On any given

Table 1. First North American records from Attu Island, Alaska, of various Eurasian bird species.

Species	Date	Source
Yellow Bittern	17–22 May 1989	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Lesser White-fronted Goose	5 June 1994	American Birds 48:330
Eurasian Hobby[a]	2 July 1982	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Green Sandpiper	13 June 1978	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Pin-tailed Snipe[b]	25 May 1991	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Oriental Pratincole	19–20 May 1985	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Great Spotted Woodpecker	9–31 October 1985	Wagner 1989
Lanceolated Warbler	4 June–15 July 1984	Tobish 1985
Narcissus Flycatcher	20–21 May 1989	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Asian Brown Flycatcher	25 May 1985	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Siberian Blue Robin	21 May 1985	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Rufous-tailed Robin	4 May 2000	Alaska region, this issue
Red-flanked Bluetail	5 June 1978	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Black-backed Wagtail	4 May 1913	Thayer and Bangs 1921
Pine Bunting	18–19 November 1985	Wagner 1990
Yellow-breasted Bunting	26 May 1988	Gibson and Kessel 1992
Eurasian Siskin	4 June 1978	Roberson 1980
Oriental Greenfinch	22 May 1976	Byrd et al. 1978

[a]*Technically, this bird was seen 32 km northeast of Attu Island. North America's second hobby was seen on Attu Island proper 20 May 1983 (Gibson and Kessell 1992).*
[b]*There is an earlier record of the Pin-tailed Snipe from Kure Atoll, Hawaiian Islands, 13 January 1964 (A.O.U. 1998).*

day on Attu, however, one does not know what first North American record one will find. Attu is responsible for 18 first North American records (Table 1), including such one-time wonders as the Yellow Bittern, Pine Bunting, and this year's Rufous-tailed Robin. North American breeding of White-tailed Eagle, Black-backed Wagtail, Whooper Swan, and Brambling were first recorded on Attu. While vagrants will continue to occur on Attu, it will become virtually impossible for us to know about most of them. Of the 18 first North American records documented from Attu, the vast majority were found by ATTOUR leaders and participants.

Expectations were high for the final spring tours to Attu, and this year's trips produced some incredible sightings, undoubtedly highlighted by the first North American record of Rufous-tailed Robin. Other highlights included Far Eastern Curlew, Great Knot, Black-tailed Gull, Oriental Cuckoo (present at the same time as Common Cuckoo), Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler, two Lanceolated Warblers, seven Red-breasted Flycatchers, seven Common Rosefinches, and a male Bullfinch.

So, with the premise of birding Attu now a mere memory, where can we turn to in North America for a Siberian fix? Considering coverage, or the virtual lack thereof, other places in the western Aleutians have hosted their share of vagrants. Alaska's and western North America's first Little Egret was found dead this spring on Buldir, which in the past also hosted North America's first Jungle Nightjar and Oriental Scops-Owl (A.O.U. 1998). The Wood Warbler and Mugimaki Flycatcher were first recorded in North America from Shemya, while Black-winged Stilt on Nizki and Chinese Egret on Agattu provided other North American firsts (A.O.U. 1998). Nevertheless, these locations will prove no easier to reach than Attu. It seems that Paul Lehman's experience on Gambell, recording North America's first Yellow-browed Warbler (Lehman 2000), suggests this to be the next Alaskan birding frontier. Autumn, with many more individual birds and young, inexperienced birds, will likely provide the next round of excitement for Alaskan birding. At this point, it seems that fall on St. Lawrence Island, or some other remote outpost, may be the next place where the next "one never knows" bird may come in the form of a first North American record. Moreover, if those locations cannot excite us with a first North American record, we still have Arizona, south Texas, south Florida, and growing numbers of pelagic opportunities for our continued explorations.

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how to read the regional reports

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included? Do the Regional Editors just report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by et al. (short for *et alia*, meaning "and others"), or preceded by *fide* (literally, "by the faith of"—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add "v.o." (for "various observers") or "m.ob." (for "many observers") after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier or blacker type?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete rundown of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

Why are some of the place names in italic type?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked "SA"?

"SA" stands for "Special Attention" (and, by coincidence, is pronounced "essay"). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends.

Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Abbreviations used in the names of birds:

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenal or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

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In these days of unpredictable climatic patterns, fueled, I believe, by human-caused global warming, a detailed mention of "unexpected" weather seems a waste of ink. Therefore, March and April were warmer than expected and May cooler, at least on the mainland. Newfoundland did not receive its blessed Nor'easterlies (the Eurasian express), but rare birds popped up across the Region anyway, most from the south. Coverage was excellent from Nova Scotia and quite good from New Brunswick. I am indebted to Brian Dalzell of the Grand Manan Bird Observatory, who summarized the copious sightings from NatureNB for my benefit—unfortunately, observer names were omitted from the summaries. The Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland was well-covered, but there was limited information from the rest of the island, as well as Labrador. P.E.I. continues to offer little data and no documentation.

Nova Scotian birders have enthusiastically participated in the North American Migration Count since its inception; thanks to Judy Tufts for her tireless annual organization of this event. So far as I know, the other provinces in this Region do not participate. I am unaware of how, or if, the data we collect are used by the overall coordinator, but the data have become an invaluable tool to the various editors who collate the provincial sightings for the Nova Scotia Bird Society and so, in turn, to me for writing the spring regional summary.

Abbreviations: G.M. (Grand Manan archipelago, NB); S.P.M. (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, France); B.P.I. (Bon Portage Island, NS); B.I. (Brier Island, NS); C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); NAMC (North American Migration Count—Nova Scotia only, 13 May); P.E.I. (Prince Edward Island); PLBO (Point Lepreau Bird Observatory, NB); Sable (Sable Island, NS); S.I. (Seal Island, *Yarmouth*, NS).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Fewer than a dozen Red-throated Loons were reported in Nova Scotia, but an excellent movement of 125 birds per hour was noted at PLBO 25 Apr. The largest flock of Horned Grebes in Nova Scotia was 50 in mid-April at Petite Riviere (EM). One 7 May at Trespassey (D. Brown, T. Smith) was notable, as the species is less than annual in e. Newfoundland. Susann Meyers has been carefully monitoring the Red-necked Grebe numbers in Kennington Cove, Cape Breton, with a maximum count of 35 in mid-April; all had departed by 20 Apr. The annual early spring concentration at The Drook, NF, peaked at 48 on 26 Mar (T. Boland). These numbers pale next to those at S.P.M., where the high counts were 565 for Michelon and 138 for St. Pierre (RE) on 7 Mar. The last birds were in St. Pierre 21 Apr.

An excellent count of Northern Fulmars occurred from the Cabot Strait ferry 21 May when RK tallied 980 birds in Nova Scotia waters. Ray d'Entremont noted his second-ever earliest Sooty Shearwater on George's Bank, NS, 31 Mar, just two days off the record. Ian McLaren *et al.*, while en route to S.I. 28 May, had a remarkable count of 150 Sooties, unprecedented for the time and place and perhaps lured inshore by a heavy squid run.

This spring furnished the finest heron flight on record, led by Great Egrets, but with other southern herons well-represented (Table 1). As might be expected, most were in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; RK reported from the former: "This was a fantastic spring for Great Egrets. The first was seen 27 Mar at Chezzetcook, and this presaged an unprecedented invasion. Two more turned up in March, at C.S.I. and B.I., but April records came from the whole of the province, including Cape Breton. One on S.I. stayed 4 Apr–4 May. Totals peaked in mid-April; at least 45 individuals reported on 20 Apr. The species continued to be seen until the end of May, albeit in lesser numbers. How many birds were involved will never be known." Smaller (but still considerable) numbers were tallied in New Brunswick, with eight of the 23 bird from inland locations. The heron flight petered out in P.E.I., Newfoundland, and S.P.M. (with none reaching the last location), but a couple of good birds slipped through, particularly P.E.I.'s first (and the Region's 4th) **White Ibis** at Beach Pt. 13–22 May (and rediscovered in Woods Harbour in June). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Ferryland, NF, 7–18 Apr provided a rare provincial spring record (BMt et al.)

WATERFOWL THROUGH GULLS

Eight Snow Geese at P.E.I. Mar–Apr and but one in Nova Scotia paled against the estimated 1000 at the Atholville Marsh, NB, 29 Apr.

Table 1. Summary of southern herons in Atlantic Canada, spring 2000.

	NS	NB	NF	P.E.I.
Great Egret	100+?	23	3	1
Little Blue Heron	9	2	–	–
Snowy Egret	11	12	–	–
Tricolored Heron	3	1	–	–
Cattle Egret	4	–	–	–
Green Heron	15	*	–	–
Yel-crowned Night-Heron	5	–	1	–
Glossy Ibis	9	6	–	–

** breeds regularly in s. New Brunswick in small numbers*

Twelve on 5 May at Labrador City was a good number for Labrador (BD). Peak regional counts of Brant were 5,000 at C.S.I. 19 Mar and 400 at G.M. 3 Apr. Gadwalls wandered offshore in May in Nova Scotia, with singles on Sable and S.I. A pair of **Canvasbacks** were seen at Conrad's Beach, NS, 23 Mar (J. Waldron et al), but were not noted subsequently (and were not documented, in any case). A pair of **Redheads** at St. Pierre 28–30 May (P. Asselin, ph.) was the first for the French Islands. Given the strong flight of Common Eiders up the w. shore of the Bay of Fundy, it should not be surprising that New Brunswick birders are locating increasing numbers of King Eiders among the migrating flocks. Nevertheless, the 31 birds noted late Mar–early May was an impressive total. The PLBO made some excellent counts of migrating scoters. Surf and Black peaked 25 Apr at 4630 birds/hr and 1284 birds/hr, respectively. The White-winged Scoter peak was 9 Apr, when 105 birds/hr passed. The NAMC totals of Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters were 2175, 436, and 1750, some of those late migrants and others non-breeding over-summering birds. Occurrences of European ducks are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of European ducks in Atlantic Canada, spring 2000.

	NS	NB	NF	P.E.I.
Eurasian Wigeon	6	5	10	1
Common Teal	2	3	-	-
Tufted Duck	7	3	6	-

Raptors elicited little excitement, with New Brunswick offering the most interesting tidbits, including a Golden Eagle at Campobello I. 23 Mar, a Red-shouldered Hawk at Woodside 5 Mar, and a Gyrfalcon at Woodwards Cove 18 Mar. Two Sandhill Cranes were at Havelock, NB, 6–13 May; whereas breeding seems extremely unlikely in the Maritime Provinces, one can always hope. Sandhill Cranes are less-than-annual in Newfoundland, so a bird at Goulds, 22–23 May (BMt et al.) was welcome. The spring's stellar rarity was a **Black Rail** on S.I. (C. Kenney et al.). The observers watched the bird on and off for about a week from 20 Apr as it kept mostly to a sedge-rimmed pond, flushing occasionally into nearby trees. At other times the bird came into full view at close range. The description was convincing (*fide* IM) and provides the 3rd provincial sight record, the previous two having occurred on Sable, both single-observer events. A **Purple Gallinule** in Halifax was not nearly as rare, but was much more accessible, as it was discovered 30 May on the grounds of the St. Mary's University campus (S.&B. Grogono). It lingered well into June, to the delight of many observers. Winds did not favour an arrival of birds from Iceland, so Newfoundland birders had to be content with 2 **European Golden-Plovers** at Cape Race 4–7 May, joined by a third on 7 May (PL, ph.). On the heels of last year's first-ever successful Canadian nesting of **American Oystercatcher**, on C.S.I., a pair returned 7 Apr, with a second pair noted by month's end and a third pair in late May. Two pairs eventually fledged young (see the upcoming summer report). Three Upland Sandpipers were found in Nova Scotia, a typical spring number, but 2 of the 3 were at Cape Breton. The third lingered on C.S.I. to the end of the period. On the NAMC, a record 392 Greater Yellowlegs were counted. A Lesser Yellowlegs at Goulds, NF, 8–13 Apr furnished a rare spring record and the first in April. Stilt Sandpipers are rare in spring, as they are thought to migrate nw. long before they reach our shores, so one in alternate/breeding plumage at C.S.I. 7 May was a noteworthy find (MN). The only Ruff this spring was in New Brunswick, a Reeve at Dune de Buctouche 8 May.

Five Common Gulls were on the Avalon Peninsula, NF, one (a first summer) through late May. It was an good spring for Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with (north to south) 15 in Newfoundland, one at S.P.M., 4 in New Brunswick, and 6 in Nova Scotia, of which one, an adult at Petite Riviere, showed characters attributed to *L. f. intermedius* (EM), the first reported in the province (there are precedent records from Newfoundland). The newly "discovered" hotspot of Ogden's Pond, *Antigonish*, NS, continues to show its mettle, this time as a favored staging area for Black-headed Gulls en route to breeding colonies north and east—RL counted a maximum of 110 on 25 Mar. The regional spring Laughing Gull total was but 7—an April bird in New Brunswick and 6 birds in May: 2 in e. Newfoundland and 4 in Nova Scotia, including 2 together at Port Morien, Cape Breton.

OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS

A migrant Northern Hawk Owl was at G.M. 1 Apr. Here is a Boreal Owl story, as passed along by IM: "A migrant appeared on Sable 29 Apr–2 May, the third record there. ZL found it on the first morning perched in a propane shed and grasping a dead Leach's Storm-Petrel which had begun to nest there. After dark, both it and its prey were gone. This was repeated for the next three days." Despite this hopeful sign, no birds were located in surveys in n. Cape Breton, but Bruno Letournel had a bird on S.P.M. 16 May. The earliest-ever Chimney Swift in Nova Scotia (and the Region?) was at Schooner Pond, Cape Breton, 8 Apr (CAM). Two showed up quite far n. on S.P.M. 14 & 27 May. Considering the number of spring sightings of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in New Brunswick, can nesting be far off? Five over-wintering birds (including 3 on G.M.) were joined by 4 others on the mainland. There were 3 in Nova Scotia, an overwintering bird, and 2 migrants, including a female on B.I. 10–20 May.

While many observers felt Eastern Wood-Pewees were late arriving, one in Mactaquac, NB, 16 Apr was four weeks early, as was an Eastern Kingbird in the Avalon Peninsula, NF, 30 Apr (D. Brown). Nova Scotia was featured in all the vireo news. It had its best spring ever for **White-eyed Vireos**, with 4 reported: Broad Cove 5 May, C.S.I. 8 May (GRM), NAMC 13 May, and one banded on B.P.I. 14 May. Two **Yellow-throated Vireos** were reported, one banded 30 Apr on B.P.I. and an undocumented singing bird near Chester. RK and DM reported the only Philadelphia Vireo, at Schooner Pond, Cape Breton, 19 May. It is pleasant to have Blue Jays make the news, with this report from S.P.M. by RE: "The Blue Jay is still an uncommon and irregular bird here and people are still excited about them! The first one was reported 15 Mar on St. Pierre, and was seen regularly—the maximum was 4 birds on 16 May. Three were in Miquelon village 20 & 23 May."

A Cliff Swallow 9 May in Labrador (BD) was rare that far north. Only three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported, all in May, with 2 in New Brunswick and the other at P.E.I. The **Townsend's Solitaire** at Riverside-Albert, NB, was last reported 16 Mar. A Veery on S.P.M. 4 May (L. Jackman) was but the 3rd recorded on the islands. The same islands had only 2 Gray-cheeked Thrushes—the species was once a fairly common breeder there. Sightings of Gray-cheekeds on the mainland are rarely adequately documented. This spring, 5 were reported from Nova Scotia—2 on Sable 27–28 Apr and one banded on B.P.I. 28 Apr were well-described, but the others are suspect, given the difficulty of distinguishing from Bicknell's Thrush. A Wood Thrush at Isle Lameque, NB, 17 Apr was four weeks early. A "heavy" wave of hundreds of American Robins was noted in s. New Brunswick 26–27 Mar. **Varied Thrushes** continue to delight observers. One was in Douglas, NB, 14 Mar, while one appeared just slightly later in Nova Scotia, in

East Uniacke, 24–25 Mar (P. Bower). Newfoundland's 2nd, at first just a February rumor, became reality following a March snowfall when an adult male was discovered at a Pouch Cove feeder 19–29 Mar (D. Klaroft et al.). A Brown Thrasher spent most of March on G.M., while Nova Scotia hosted 3 in April and May. Given the heavy winter flight of Bohemian Waxwings, it is not a surprise that some were still being noted into mid-May, in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A **Blue-winged Warbler** was on G.M. 13 May. Cape May Warblers are rare on S.P.M., but 1–2 males were seen 22 & 27 May; an equally rare Blackburnian was there 21 May. S.P.M. enjoyed its first spring **Yellow-throated Warbler**, when one patronized RE's buggy garden compost from 24 Apr–3 May (ph). Two of Nova Scotia's overwintering Pine Warblers persisted until 27 Mar in Halifax and 22 Apr in Dartmouth; 2 on S.I. 30 May were migrants (IM et al.). Three in New Brunswick lingered until 4 Mar in Sackville, 21 Apr in Fredricton and 26 Apr in Fundy NP. Nova Scotia hosted a minor invasion of **Hooded Warblers**. The earliest patrolled the beach at C.S.I. 29 Mar (m.ob.), eating spiders and tolerating close photography. Two more (undocumented) appeared on the NAMC, and a 4th was at Schooner Pond 25 May (CAM).

Summer Tanagers made their now-anticipated annual spring visit, with 4 in Nova Scotia and 2 in New Brunswick (5 of them, as expected, on s. islands). A Scarlet Tanager delighted residents of the town of St.-Pierre on S.P.M. 29 Apr–17 May and was photographed by many, including non-birders. At least one Eastern Towhee successfully overwintered in Nova Scotia, and there were 6 spring arrivals, including 4 on C.S.I. and one far n. in Louisbourg. A Chipping Sparrow overwintered in Hantsport, NS, and, more remarkably, so did one in Gander, NF. There were 7 Field Sparrows in Nova Scotia, including one far afield in Schooner Pond; there was but one in New Brunswick, on G.M. Nova Scotia's 4th spring Lark Bunting was on Sable 27 May (ZL); there are <20 records overall. Closer scrutiny of migrant Savannah Sparrows turned up at least 4 Ipswich race birds in New Brunswick, 3 between 20–25 Mar. Significant sparrow "waves" occurred 26–27 Mar in New Brunswick (mostly Song) and 4–5 May in Nova Scotia, especially on C.S.I., with a fall-out of hundreds of White-throateds and dozens of White-crowneds.

Northern Cardinals continue their move into Nova Scotia, with more than 30 birds reported in spring, many on territory, and doubtless many more not reported. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made early arrivals across the region. Nova Scotia's first was 10 Apr at Hemeon's Head (average 1 May), and 9 more were found later in April. New Brunswick also had an early bird 23 Apr, on G.M. This early arrival was mirrored in Newfoundland, where a pronounced southerly air flow 24–25 Apr propelled many early migrants to the Avalon Peninsula, including 9 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a Red-eyed Vireo, 2 Scarlet Tanagers, and 4 Indigo Buntings, as well as the Eastern Kingbird mentioned earlier. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia each had 4 Blue Grosbeaks, an average number, and each had a good May flight of Indigo Buntings, with more than 30 in both provinces. Just one Indigo was reported from P.E.I. A male **Painted Bunting** briefly visited a feeder 21 May in *Kings*, NS (M.&L. Norden). P.E.I.'s first Painted Bunting, a male, was a Marshfield May 24-30 (V.C. MacDonald, et al.). Three Dickcissels overwintered in Nova Scotia. Bobolinks were last seen on S.P.M. in 1991, so this spring's appearance of 4 males and 2 females 21 May was most welcome. The spring's oriole flight was disappointing, with but a single Orchard in Nova Scotia and 3 on G.M. And regarding wandering "winter" finches: all quiet on the western front.

Contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Brian Dalzell, Fred Dobson, Raymond d'Entremont, **Roger Etcheberry, Sylvia Fullerton, Andy Horne, Richard Knapton**, Randy Lauff, Zoe Lucas, **Bruce Mactavish** (Bmt), Blake Maybank (BMy), **Dave McCorquodale, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills**, Cathy & Allan Murrant (CAM), Murray Newell.

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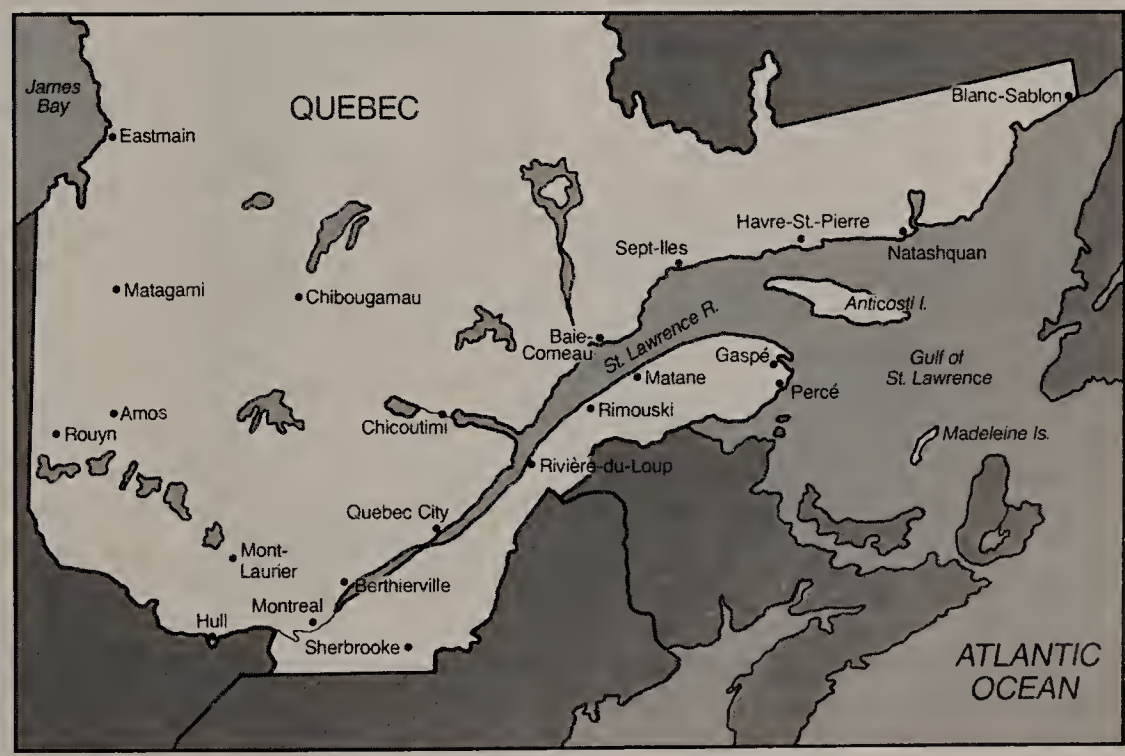

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Following the spring-like weather of late February, March continued very mild, which led to numerous record-early arrivals. By the end of March, 57 migrant species had been recorded in the Montreal area, six of them record-early for the Region and 32 the earliest for the last decade. A noticeable change in the weather pattern took place in April and May when cool and wet conditions prevailed. Although an important storm on 9 April dumped up to two feet of snow on s. Quebec, there was no evidence of a major bird mortality, although there was undoubtedly some mortality among the early insectivorous migrants. Although

most neotropical migrants got here on time in May, some migrants were running behind schedule by the end of the month, with birds still arriving as late as mid-June.

With this Seasonal Report, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Samuel Denault, at age 19 perhaps the youngest of all *NAB* Regional Editors. His birding skills have won him the respect of the local birding community, including that of the "oldies," as he respectfully calls us, and his "hard-drive" memory has been often instrumental in tracking down many of the records published in this column in recent years. In the future, Samuel will be co-signing our Regional reports when his full-time studies allow.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES

A Horned Grebe was extremely early in La Baie 4 Mar (S. Tremblay *et al.*). Casual inland in spring, a Great Cormorant visited Chambly 18–28 Apr (MB, DD, m.ob.) and the American White Pelican seen in flight in Saint-François, *Île d'Orléans,* 6 May (C. Pépin), was also notable.

The northward dispersal of southern herons was more significant than in past years. A Great Egret in Kahnawake 31 Mar (PB) was the earliest ever, and singles in Longue-Rive (Pointe-à-Boisvert) 29 Apr–7 May (R. Gilbert, A. Gosselin) and in Old Harry 29–31 May (J-C. Richard, FS, BL), were the farthest out of range. A Snowy Egret made a brief appearance in Saint-Timothée 15 Apr (R. Belhumeur et al.). Another was sighted in Grande-Entrée 28 Apr–11 May (C. Cyr, m.ob.). Five Little Blue Herons, all adults, were unprecedented. Individuals were in Grosse-Île, *Magdalen Is.*, 7 May (J. Villeneuve *et al.*), lingered s. of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 14–24 May (S. Mathieu, m.ob.), appeared for a second consecutive year at Cap Tourmente 16–19 May (R. Bisson), stopped in Pabos 20–21 May (J. R. Lepage *et al.*), and appeared briefly in Lasalle 29 May (J-C. Sorel). Single Cattle Egrets were noted in Métabetchouan 5 May (S. Boivin), Masson-Angers 12 May (D. Bouffard), and in Saint-Eugène-de-Guigues 16 May onwards (R. Tessier, JF). Our first Tricolored Herons in three years were found in Neuville 6–17 May (FD, RD) and in Cacouna 22 May onwards (LS, m.ob.). Green Herons were n. of their normal range, with an individual in Saint-Gédéon 20 May (H. Claveau, J. Ibarzabal) and another in Étang-du-Nord 30–31 May (FS, BL). Finally, single Glossy Ibises were encountered in Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Blaise, Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix, and Barachois.

GEESE THROUGH TERNS

Two Greater White-fronted Geese in Saint-Stanislas-de-Kostka 2 Mar (LS et al.) and a Ross's Goose in Sainte-Barbe 6 Mar (JMB) were our earliest ever. Snow Geese showed up in good numbers in the Gaspé Peninsula again this year, including a high count of 1000 in Restigouche 20 May (ND *et al.*). The two imm. Tundra Swans in Barachois 17 May (M. Larrivée) constituted a good find for the Gaspé. A male Eurasian Wigeon in Saint-Paul-de-l'île-aux-Noix 25 Mar (SD et al.) established a record-early arrival. Although American and Eurasian Wigeons are both regular in the province, few hybrids have ever been reported; 3 this spring alone were thus notable: in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu at the end of Mar (PB et al.), in Baie-du-Febvre 25 Apr (LM et al.), and in Saint-Gédéon 14–16 May (B. Dumont et al.).

There was just one report of Canvasback in the Montreal area, in Noyan 20 Mar (JMB, DD et al.), but the species was also sighted in Métabetchouan 15–16 Apr (C. Cormier, GS et al.), Cacouna 14–16 Apr (C. Gauvreau et al.), and in Victoriaville 21 May (JD et al.). A dozen Redheads in Saint-Siméon 20 May (PB et al.) furnished a high number and a rare report for the Gaspé Peninsula. Most remarkable, however, was the occurrence of a **Tufted Duck** in Saint-Henri 16 Apr (S. Bégin, L. Plante). Sandhill Cranes appeared at a record-early date, with two in Saint-Bruno-de-Guigues 25 Mar (JF).

The only Willets of the season were in the Lower-Saint-Lawrence, with one each in Pointe-au-Père 15–16 May (GG, R. Fortin) and Cabano 18 May (M. Beaulieu). Marbled Godwits were well-reported: one appeared in Deschambault 18 May, a single was discovered in Baie-du-Febvre 19 May (LM), 2 were found on Île Evers 27 May (GZ et al.), and a last one was spotted in Montmagny the same day (M. Lachance, L. Vinette). Rare in spring, an adult Stilt Sandpiper in Pointe-au-Père 23–26 May (GG et al.) was a good find. The only Long-tailed Jaeger of the season was seen from the Trois-Pistoles–Les Escoumins ferry 30 May (J-P. Ouellet, M. Lafleur, FD, RD). Casual in the Montreal area, an ad. Laughing Gull stopped briefly in Saint-Paul-de-l'Ile-aux-Noix 6 May (PB, GZ). At Victoriaville, an ad. Black-headed Gull 24 Apr (MG et al.) and an ad. Little Gull 17 May (A. Daigle et al.), were both Regional firsts. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are no longer unexpected wherever there are gulls; 8 birds were reported, including one in Duhamel-Ouest 31 Mar (JF), the first ever in the Abitibi-Témicamingue area. An ad. Sabine's Gull in Saint-Irénée 26–27 May (FD, RD, R. Gingras, J. Forgues) furnished one of our rare spring records. Unreported in e. North America since 1995 (*Birding* 32:216–230), an adult **White-winged Tern** graced Baie-du-Febvre 27–30 May (E. Samson, A. Lacasse, m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Two Red-headed Woodpeckers irregularly attended a Saint-Anicet feeder in May (*fide* A. Hogue, P. Fradette) and single birds were in Westmount 6–7 May (J. Lussier et al.), Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 7–12 May (MB, L. L'Écuyer), and Montreal about 20 May (C. Huard); the adult at a Chicoutimi feeder 23–25 May (F. Gauthier et al.) was out of range. The only Red-bellied Woodpecker of the season was in Abercorn 5 May (R. Gaudreault). Although the Loggerhead Shrike has virtually vanished from the Northeast and has not bred in the Region since 1995, singles were reported (and described) in Rimouski-Est 16–20 Apr (Y. Boulanger, D. Côté et al.) and near Coleraine 26 Apr (Y. Hamel, D. McCutcheon). Warbling Vireos noted at Ville-Marie 27 May (JF) and Pointe-à-la-Croix 29 May (L. Tremblay, C. Pitre) were, respectively, at the nw. and e. edges of the their range.

A Tree Swallow seen in Saint-Stanislas 9 Mar (M. McIntosh, B. Barnhurst) was record-early. "Feedermania" and global warming are most likely responsible for the steady influx of White-breasted Nuthatch records at the n. and e. edges of its range; namely, at least 6 different birds near Chicoutimi (*fide* GS) and at least 7 in the sw. parts of the Gaspé Penisula (*fide* PP). As singing Carolina Wrens remained in Cowansville (BH), Philipsburg (G. Rennie) and Carignan (SD et al.), they too are perhaps finally establishing a permanent foothold in the Region.

Although the weather was miserable, Claude Simard was scouting Cap Tourmente 9 Mar for a scheduled field trip that he was to lead there two days later. His reward was nothing less than a **Redwing,** the 9th record in North America! Numerous observers had excellent views of the bird 10–11 Mar as it fed on the ground at the base of trees and bushes where snow had melted. It could not be relocated the next day, due to a heavy snow storm, and was last seen 13 Mar in late afternoon. Seven of the eight previous North American occurrences (Newfoundland, Sable Island, Jamaica Bay) were recorded between 25 Nov and 24 Feb; it is presumed

that the Cap Tourmente bird overwintered somewhere in the East, as spring migrants usually appear only in early April in Iceland, the likely source of birds seen in North America. The other occurrence, in Newfoundland 26 Jun–11 Jul 1980, was associated with a wave of Icelandic vagrants that reached Newfoundland that spring (*fide* B. Mactavish).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Record-early parulids included a Black-throated Green Warbler in Westmount 24 Apr. (M. Beauchamp) and a Wilson's Warbler in Boucherville 29 Apr (C. Ménard). Local hotlines and birdchats were quite busy keeping track of a rather long list of casual but expected strays that included: a Prairie Warbler on Ile des Soeurs 8 May (F. Morneau et al.), a Yellow-breasted Chat in Hull 27 May onwards (F. Bédard), a Summer Tanager in Victoriaville 11 May (MG), Western Tanagers 26 May in Amqui (R. Vaillancourt, L. Bérubé) and 19–29 May in Baie-Comeau (G. Deraps), a Lark Bunting in Rivière-Madeleine 16 May (G. Blanchette), Harris's Sparrows in D'Alembert, Abitibi, 16–18 May (G. Bergeron, M. L'Heureux) and nearby in La Ferme 18 May (M. Bigué), and finally a Blue Grosbeak in Bic 10–12 May (J. Chenard, R-C. Bérubé).

With some 12 records in May spread from Témiscamingue through the Gaspé Peninsula, the Clay-colored Sparrow is maintaining its well-established pattern of several consecutive years of showing up in any suitable site where breeding can occur. No less than 3 hybrid Dark-eyed Junco × White-throated Sparrow were found in the Québec City area, one by L. Vézina in Saint-Benjamin 2–3 May and the other 2 by the same lucky observers (JL, C. Nadeau) at Cap Tourmente 6 May and in Lévis 7 May. Several records of male and female Northern Cardinals in both the Chicoutimi (*fide* GS) and Rimouski (*fide* JLM) areas indicate that this species is establishing viable breeding outposts, as has happened with the White-breasted Nuthatch.

A description of a **Lazuli Bunting** was received from Saint-Léon, Lac Saint-Jean, 7 May (R. Savard), where a male spent about five minutes in the vicinity of a feeder; it emphasized a blue head, russet upper-breast, white belly and two white wing bars. Unfortunately, local observers were unable to relocate the bird and no photographic documentation was obtained for this sighting, which would represent a first record for the Region.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds included 3 different birds in the Montreal area (*fide* PB, ND) and one each in Lorrainville 10–11 May (F. Cadotte, JF), Amqui 10 May (L. Gagné), and Port-Cartier 19 May (B. Duchesne, J-F. Laporte). Single Orchard Orioles in Saint-Louis-de-France 7 May (S. Houle, J. Brunelle), and Montreal 23 May (M. Renaud) are pushing the species into the category of an annual spring visitor, not to mention the possibility of casual nester, since it has bred not that far s. in Vermont and New York.

Subregional editors (boldface) and observers: C. Auchu (North Shore), **P. Bannon** (Montréal), M. Bertrand, J-M. Béliveau, **C. Buidin** (Lower North Shore), D. Daigneault, F. Dion. R. Dion, **J. Ducharme** (Bois-Francs), **J. Fréchette** (Témiscamingue), **S. Gagnon** (Abitibi), **D. G. Gaudet** (Iles de la Madeleine), G. Gendron, M. Grégoire, **B. Hamel** (Brôme-Missisquoi), B. Leblanc, **J. Lachance** (Québec City), **J-L. Martel** (Lower St. Lawrence), L. Messely, **P. Poulin** (Gaspésie), **G. Savard** (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), F. Shaffer, L. Simard, **D. Toussaint** (Outaouais), G. Zenaitis.

new england

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As usual, New Englanders rode another weather see-saw this spring. Warm southerly winds in March and early April induced the early arrival of some migrants and also put foliage well-ahead of schedule. Then, a two-week cold spell in the latter half of April put everything behind schedule, before the next stretch of warm weather in early May got everything cooking again. Thereafter, winds remained highly conducive to migration more or less through the rest of the month. These conditions produced one of the most consistently productive months of May in recent memory. There were no huge waves; just a steady flow of migrants that kept birders busy and happy.

Probably the series of weather events that produced the most prevalent results occurred in the latter half of March and the beginning of April. In Boston, the last week of March was unseasonably warm. That trend continued in the first eight days of April, with temperatures roughly 8° above average. The abrupt end to this trend coincided with the passage of an intense storm that tracked just to the west of New England. The prolonged warm spell, and especially the strong, deep southerly draw that immediately preceded the storm, might have accounted for the early (in

some cases, record-early) arrivals of certain migrants. As discussed in their respective sections, these included both species of kites, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, Chimney Swift, White-eyed Vireo, and several species of wood-warblers.

Rarities abounded. Examples included an albatross, a ptarmigan (!), *two* Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Le Conte's, Harris's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Brambling. Pending review by the respective state committees, at least three species represented first state records: Tufted Duck in Vermont, Mew Gull in Maine, and Le Conte's Sparrow in New Hampshire.

Abbreviations: MARC (Massachusetts Avian Records Committee); Monhegan (Monhegan Island, *Lincoln*, ME); Nantucket (Nantucket I., MA); Plum I. (Newburyport, Newbury, Rowley, Ipswich, including Parker River N.W.R., *Essex*, MA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A Pacific Loon was reported from Biddeford, ME, 4–26 Mar (*fide* LB), and another two reports came from Massachusetts: one at Plum I. 6 May and the other at Wellfleet 13 May (SP), both in breeding plumage. Also reported from Biddeford, ME, 30 Mar was a high count of 350 Horned Grebes (N. McReel). The **Eared Grebe** that has spent the previous five winters in East Gloucester, MA, was last reported 16 Mar (J. Soucy).

A Sooty Shearwater was a bit early off Rockport, MA, 26 Apr (RSH), and a Manx Shearwater was decidedly so off Pt. Judith, RI, 11 Mar (D. Wayland). The same **American White Pelican** that spent several weeks at Plum I. in 1997 reappeared this spring in Tyngsboro, MA, where it was seen off and on for over a month (18 Apr–3 May, 16–25 May). Its identity as the 1997 bird was confirmed when an observer noted that, as was the case three years ago, it was missing its left eye. This one-eyed bird was also seen in Ellenville, NY, 8 April (*fide* MR), and in Pelham and Nashua, NH, 23 and 24 May, respectively (PH).

Unusual among reports of long-legged waders were single Little Blue Herons north and inland in Bangor, ME, 16 May (E. Grew), and in Branton, VT, 20 Apr (S. Wetmore); a Great Egret ±10 mi from the New Brunswick border in Linneus, ME, 10 May (S. Young); and 1–2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Monhegan 15–16 Apr (B. Boynton) and 18 May (H. Nielsen).

Black Vultures were once again found in most states within the Region. A single bird was reported from Vermont (Pittsford 31 May); 2 were seen in New Hampshire (Manchester 20 Apr, Rockingham 19 May); 8 were seen in Massachusetts (including 3 in Sheffield 20 Mar); 3 were still coming to a communal roost with Turkey Vultures in Ashaway, RI, 14 Mar–16 Apr; and 3 were reported from e. Connecticut. In w. Connecticut they are now so numerous that local contributors no longer enumerate reports. If birders were as common in that area as are Black Vultures, this species probably would have been confirmed as a nesting species in the state by now.

SA The most sensational bird of the season was an ad. **Yellow-nosed Albatross** that began a thrilling series of appearances thoughout the northeast (see next issue for details) with a brief fly-by visit to Penikese I., MA, one of the westernmost of the Elizabeth Islands, just n. of Martha's Vineyard, 9 May (C. Mostello et al.). The bird was observed at point-blank range as it made several close passes *over* a blind in which a team of incredulous tern biologists was working. They watched in amazement (but with the presence of mind to note key field marks such as the precise pattern of black and white on the underwing) before the bird flew out of sight over Buzzard's Bay.

Coincidentally, the first of only 2 Yellow-nosed Albatrosses recorded previously in Massachusetts was seen practically within sight of Penikese at Bird I., *Marion*, MA, by a tern biologist, 7 May 1971, nearly 20 years earlier to the day! Perhaps not so coincidentally, an ad. Yellow-nosed Albatross made a similar visit to Matinicus Rock, a small island in the Gulf of Maine, last summer (see pictorial highlights in *North American Birds* 53:445). Ornithologists have long recognized albatrosses' strong site fidelity to their nesting islands, both at traditional breeding colonies and as demonstrated by various individuals (Black-browed) that have returned to Northern Gannet colonies in Great Britain for more than 20 successive years. Those birds, for whatever reasons, were "off" seasonally by six months and geographically by an entire hemisphere. In this context and in light of the Maine sighting, and given albatrosses' strong aversion to flying over land except during their breeding cycles, it does not seem at all outlandish to suppose that the Penikese record and last summer's Maine record involved the same individual, and that each time, the bird might have been prospecting for an island on which to nest.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The frequency of occurrence of Greater White-fronted Goose has greatly increased in New England over the past 10 years; a total of ±14 birds in four states this year probably represented a new Regional high. A minimum of 7 in Massachusetts included 1–3 in Hadley 3–10 Mar (J. Trimble, et al.); another 3 were in Mansfield, CT, 9 Mar (MZ); 2–3 individuals were found in s. New Hampshire in Durham 2–10 Mar. (SM), North Hampton 6–27 Apr (D. Donsker et al.), and Concord 14–26 Apr (J. Quinn); and one was reported from Farmington Falls, ME, 1 Apr (C. Jack). The biggest flocks by far of migrant Snow Geese were seen, as usual, in nw. Vermont. Roughly 12,000 northbound Snows were counted within an hour over Grand Isle 15 Mar (DH). Brants seldom touch down inland in New England as they pass overhead in spring migration, and if they do, it usually happens in May when most are beginning their overland flights. Such a grounding accounted for the appearance of 44 Brants in Montague, MA, on the Connecticut R. 21 May (M. Fairbrother). More unusual was one in a cornfield in Hadley 24 Mar (H. Allen).

Among the roughly 13 Regionwide Eurasian Wigeons, the most noteworthy were 3 drakes in Swanton, VT, 16 Apr (K. Copenhaver) and New Hampshire's first away from the coast, along the Connecticut R. in Colebrook (D. Killam). An ad. drake **Cinnamon Teal** in Gloucester, MA, 18–19 Mar (T. Raymond) was probably the real deal, but most likely will not make it into the books without a "questionable origin" asterisk. Three single Common Teal were reported, all in Masschusetts: Eastham 5 Mar (BN); W. Harwich 1–28 Apr (BO); and Hatfield 11 Apr (P. Champlin). In just the past 5+ years, the Tufted Duck has become an annual winter visitor to New England. This spring a drake that spent another winter in Clinton, MA, remained at least until 18 Mar (T. Pirro), a female that had not been seen earlier in the winter appeared in Westport, MA, 25 Mar (EN), and a drake in Shelburne, VT, 7 Apr (C. Gifford et al.) represented the first state record. Surf Scoters are the least likely of the three scoters species to appear inland in New England, so the discovery of 3 on the Connecticut Lakes in Pittsburg, NH, 16 May (EN) was noteworthy. A well-described Common × Barrow's

Goldeneye hybrid was identified in Newburyport, MA, 7 Mar (RSH).

Kites had a banner year, especially in Massachusetts. The now-annual show started early at Cape Cod, MA, with a **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Barnstable 27 Mar (S. Clifton) and a sub-adult **Mississippi Kite** in Eastham 29 Mar (A. Thomas). These two early birds arrived on the s. winds that produced the aforementioned warm spell in late Mar/early Apr. Two other Mississippis were seen on the Cape, both from a hawk-watch site in Truro: one 6 May and another 27 May (TC). Additional reports of Swallow-taileds in Massachusetts came from Chatham 7 May (*fide* R. Prescott), Truro 10 May (J. Sones), Harvard 12 May (M. Holland), and Cambridge 13 May (R. Naticchioni et al.). The Chatham and Truro sightings might have involved the same individual, as might have the Harvard and Cambridge sightings. With kites, who knows? Elsewhere in the Region, single Swallow-taileds were also in Slocum, RI, 12 May (P. Paton) and in North Stamford, CT, May 8 (*fide* P. Dugan). A pair of Northern Harriers was confirmed nesting in Stratford, CT, at the only known breeding site in the state (CB). Two Golden Eagle reports included a wintering bird that lingered at least through 25 Mar at Quabbin Reservoir in cen. Massachusetts (J. Hoye) and two in Stowe, VT, 17 Apr (L. Lackey). As usual, Plum I. produced the largest spring kestrel flight in the Region. This year's one-day best of 197 came a little early on 5 Apr (TC), while the second-highest total of 105 came a bit late on 1 May (TC).

An above-average total of three King Rail reports in Connecticut included singles in South Windsor 4 Apr (P. Cianfaglione), Litchfield in May (D. Rosgen), and Milford 13 May (D. Varza). Other singles were located in the Great Swamp in Rhode Island 20–27 May (D. Finizia et al.) and in Pittsfield, MA, 13 May (ML); a pair was found in W. Bridgewater, MA, also 13 May (S. Arena). Like most other marsh birds in the East, Common Moorhens continue to decline throughout the Northeast. The only ones reported this spring were in Maine and Rhode Island. Two of the three Maine birds were at traditional breeding sites; the Rhode Island individual was at Pt. Judith 31 Mar (J. St. Jean). The only gallinule reported from Massachusetts was a **Purple Gallinule**, seen only one day at Nantucket 2 May (M. Phillips).

The frequency with which Sandhill Cranes have appeared in New England has increased significantly in the last 5–10 years. A total of 5 in Massachusetts included the apparent family group of 3 that spent most of the winter in se. MA. This trio was last seen in Fairhaven 4 Mar (E. Salmela). The other 2 in the Bay State were in Chatham 8 May (RVC) and Amherst 19 May (D. McKenna). A single crane, almost certainly the same bird that spent part of last year in the same area, was seen sporadically in Monroe, NH, 31 Mar–17 May (S. Turner et al.); another was in Cabot, VT, 13 May (V. Birtwhistle-Fritz). Four reports from Connecticut brought the Regional number this season to 11, a total that probably represent a modern record-high count for New England.

CHARADRIFORMS

American Golden-Plovers are a scarce spring visitor to the Region; this year's seasonal total of 4–5 was above average. Two reports, a month apart, from Biddeford, ME, 28–30 Apr (G. Carson et al.) and 30 May (R. Toochin) may have involved the same bird. In Massachusetts, singles were seen in Newburyport 13 May (RSH) and Plymouth 9–15 May (S. Hecker); another was noted in Galilee, RI, 2 May (PAB). American Oystercatchers nested again at Stratton Is., Saco, ME, (*fide* K. Gammons) and another was on the Isles of Shoals, *Rockingham*, NH, 2 & 16 May (DHa). The significance of oystercatcher records in n.-coastal New England has diminished in recent years since the species began nesting in Nova Scotia a few years ago. A **Black-necked Stilt** in Wells, ME, 29 May (R. Duddy) furnished only the 5th or 6th state record. The occurrence of two Marbled Godwits, one in Westport, MA, 2 May (R. Couse) and the other in Old Orchard Beach, ME, 28 May (P. Comins), was a nice surprise given that this species is not annual in New England in the spring. Arguably, the best shorebird of the season, eclipsing even the stilt at least in terms of seasonal rarity, was a **Baird's Sandpiper** at Napatree Pt., RI, 27 May (R. Larsen). Pending review by the state committee, this would represent the first spring record for the state and one of very few Regionwide in the spring. The early arrival of a Least Sandpiper in Ipswich, MA, 2 Apr (RSH) might have been related to the aforementioned warm weather in late Mar/early Apr, as was, perhaps, the appearance of a Spotted Sandpiper in Bolton, MA, 9 Apr (G. Gove). Two Ruffs were found this spring, at Hammonasset Beach S.P. in Madison, CT, 22–25 Apr (J. Maynard et al.) and Rowley, MA, 5–7 May (H. d'Entremont et al.). Rare is the year in which at least one Ruff does not appear in Newburyport Harbor, MA, and this was one of those years. A Red-necked Phalarope put in a surprise showing in a tiny inland pool in Morris, CT, 18–19 May (B. Devine), and a Red Phalarope on a small reservoir in Arlington, MA, 23 Apr (MR) was equally surprising.

The same fields in Hadley that contained the aforementioned Greater White-fronted Geese and Brant also contained an impressive collection of gulls 6 Mar, including 2 Glaucous, one Lesser Black-backed, and 2 apparent hybrid Herring × Glaucous—the so-called Nelson's Gull (C. Marantz). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls, by themselves, no longer merit mention in this space now that they are appearing in bunches. Massachusetts counts of multiples included 3 inland at Hadley 3 Mar (J. Trimble), 5 at Brewster 2 Apr (BN), 5 at Provincetown 13 May (SP), and 4 at Monomoy, 12 May (BN). A seasonal total of 10+ in coastal Connecticut was part of a larger phenomenon described by Greg Hanisek: "With the productive Manchester landfill now closed,

SA A **Willow Ptarmigan** was discovered by a nine-year-old girl 16 May at Great Chebeague I., *Cumberland*, ME, where it remained through the reporting period (D.&B. Johnson, LB, SM et al., ph., vt.). Remarkably, this represented the 4th state and Regional record for this species, the most recent of a bird photographed at Bailey I., Harpswell, ME, 14 May 1977; see *Am. Birds* 31:974 for a discussion of this and previous state records. In *The Birds of Massachusetts* (1955), Griscom and Snyder mentioned a Willow Ptarmigan shot in Manchester, *Essex*, MA, 10 May 1859, that was ship-assisted from Labrador. While most North American galliformes are essentially non-migratory latitudinally (though some, including ptarmigan, are elevational migrants), both Rock and Willow Ptarmigans apparently engage in seasonal north-south movements that can only be characterized as migrations. As such, like any migrant, they can be prone to occasional inexplicable wanderings. This tendency may have accounted for the appearance of the Chebeague bird. All four New England records form a tight seasonal cluster within less than a four-week span; clearly, not a coincidence.

gull activity centers on the period from mid-March to mid-April, when gulls mass along the shore to feed on eggs of a spawning marine worm. This year feeding aggregations as large as 50,000 were noted from Stamford to Madison." In addition to the Lesser Black-backeds, the following seasonal gull totals were also attributed to this phenomenon: 10+ Black-headeds, 5+ Littles, 12+ Icelands, and 2 Glaucous. Black-headed Gull numbers were fairly typical within each of the other coastal states: 4–5 in Maine, one in New Hampshire, and ±10 in Massachusetts. Little Gulls numbered 2 in Maine, 2 in New Hampshire, and ±13 in Massachusetts. Three Mew Gulls in Massachusetts included a bird in 2nd-winter plumage in S. Boston 11 Mar (R. Donovan), another 2nd-winter bird in Newburyport Harbor 15–24 Mar (RSH), and an ad. in Brewster 25 Mar (RVC). Oddly, despite the fact that Mews are annual in winter in Massachusetts (mostly around Boston Harbor), they are rarely found anywhere else on the entire Eastern Seaboard. So, a well-described first-winter bird in Portland, ME, 20–26 May (L. Bevier et al.) was big news. The Mew Gull is listed as hypothetical on the Maine list, so this sighting could represent a first state record, pending review by that state's committee. The most noteworthy tern report of the spring was of an apparent Arctic Tern on the Connecticut R. in Montague, MA, 24 May (B. Lafley et al.).

PARAKEETS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Based on their long-standing breeding status in Rhode Island and sustained presence for over 5 years in se. Massachusetts (though they have yet to be confirmed as breeding), Monk Parakeets have recently been added to the Massachusetts state list. Single birds were seen this spring in Boston (Roslindale) 6 Mar and in Milton 1 Apr (BO). Whether these solitary birds originate from the established flocks in the se. or from cages is anyone's guess. An estimated 5–10 Chuck-wills-widows return each spring to Edgartown, MA, on Martha's Vineyard, where they have long been suspected of breeding, though nesting has yet to be confirmed anywhere in New England. This year, in addition to the Vineyard regulars, singles were also heard at Pt. Judith, RI, 8 May (J. Meyers) and Wellfleet, MA, 13–31 May (D. Crockett et al.). The latter, another suspected breeder, was almost certainly the same individual that has been present there each summer since 1997. An early Chimney Swift in Fairhaven, MA, 13 Apr (M. LaBossiere) may have been ushered in by the aforementioned warm spell.

A report of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Block I., RI, 8 May (S. Comings) is pending review by the state committee, as is another from White I. in the Isles of Shoals, *Rockingham*, NH, 25 May (DHa). No details reached this writer. However, the fact that they purportedly occurred only slightly more than two weeks apart collectively lent a little extra weight to the credibility of the reports. A pair of Acadian Flycatchers, presumably the same pair that established a new northernmost breeding outpost two years ago and the first state nesting record, returned again in mid-May to Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH (A&BD). One in Portland, ME, 5 May (PDV), was bit out of range, contrary to what its moniker suggests.

Loggerhead Shrikes have all but disappeared as breeding birds in the Northeast, and even migrants, at least in spring, have become *bona fide* rarities. Two this spring were in Sterling, MA, 2 Apr (ML) and Groton, CT, 21–22 May (J. Restivo). An ad. Northern Shrike in Scarborough, ME, 12 May (LB, et al.), was very late. A rush of early White-eyed Vireos in e. Massachusetts included single birds in Eastham 8 Apr (BN), Barnstable 10–11 Apr (S. Miller), and S. Boston 15 Apr (SD); an above-average total of 4 in Maine included an early individual Downeast in Bar Harbor 1–14 Apr (G. Willow et al.). The early arrivals of some or all of these vireos may have been associated with the aforementioned warm spell.

Fish Crows were found in Burlington, VT, again this spring, following the first nesting confirmation in the state two years ago; one was also seen in Peru, VT, 13 May (WN). A House Wren in Augusta, ME, 1 Apr (N. Famous) was early, especially for a site that far n. and inland. The two reports of Sedge Wrens both came from Maine: one in Brownsfield, *York*, 11 May (J. Preis, et al.) and the other in Bangor 22 May (M. Lindbladh).

Following one of the biggest Bohemian Waxwing flights on record this past winter, it came as no surprise that big numbers remained well into the spring season. Some of the larger flocks from selected states included 116 in Turners Falls, MA, 18 Mar (T. Gagnon); 200 in Augusta, ME, 21 Apr (D. Ladd); 235 in Grafton, NH, 5 Mar (*fide* PH); and 2000+(!) in Burlington, VT, 23 Mar (N. McElveny). Ironically, the latest report from anywhere in the region this spring came from se. New England: 27 were still present in Wellfleet, MA, 1 May (J. Sones).

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An impressive assortment of wood-warblers arrived early in Massachusetts. A **Connecticut Warbler** in Mt. Everett, MA, 6 May (T. Tyning) furnished a rare spring record for this secretive species. The first of 2 Prothonotaries at Nantucket appeared 30 Mar (*fide* E. Ray), and a Hooded Warbler was in Marblehead 5 Apr (J. Lawrence et al.). A Tennessee Warbler in Marblehead 10–15 Apr (RSH) was the earliest ever in the state (and Region?); another in Sharon 30 Apr (R. Titus), though not a record-breaker at 10 days early, was nonetheless intriguing in the context of the first. Also early were 2 Northern Parulas, one in Vineyard Haven on Martha's Vineyard 7 Apr (E.&M. Siebert) and the other the next day in Provincetown (G. Martin). A Black-and-white Warbler at Plum I. 8 Apr (D. Small) was also early. In Rhode Island, another 2 Prothonotaries were found in N. Kingstown 1 & 5 Apr (*fide* DE). The tightly clustered arrival dates strongly suggest that they all arrived on the same bus, so to speak. It is likely that their arrivals were related, at least in part, to the aforementioned warm spell and/or storm.

The regular southern spring overshoots, including Yellow-throated, Prothonotary, Hooded, and Kentucky Warblers, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak were represented as follows: Yellow-throated Warbler—2 in Connecticut, 2 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine; Prothonotary Warbler—2 in Connecticut, 2 in Rhode Island; 9 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine; Hooded Warbler—11 in Massachusetts (reaches Connecticut and Rhode Island as a breeding species); Kentucky Warbler—6 in Massachusetts and one in New Hampshire; Summer Tanager—one in Connecticut, 7 in Rhode Island (record number in the state in spring), 10 in Massachusetts, and 2 in Maine; Blue Grosbeak—5 in Massachusetts and 3–5 in Maine.

The **Spotted Towhee** first found during the winter season in Amherst, MA, was last reported 7 Apr (E. Labato). More than 10 years ago, local birders predicted that Clay-colored Sparrow would soon become a regular breeder in the Region. This assumption was based on a (then) increasing number of spring records, some involving pairs on territory or at least territorial males. Since then, the species has been confirmed nesting 2–3 times, relatively modest gains. However, the numbers persist. Records this spring included one in Connecticut, one in

Rhode Island, one in Vermont, 2 in Massachusetts, and 3 in Maine. None appeared to be territorial. A **Lark Bunting** made a rare spring visit to the Region when a male visited a feeding station in Truro, MA, 25 Apr–4 May (B.O.). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** captured at a banding station on White I., *Rockingham*, NH, 16 May (DHa, M. Charette, ph.), represented the first state record. The great majority of the previous sightings elsewhere in the Region are from fall. A count of 40–50 White-crowned Sparrows in Burlington, VT, 6 May (S. Morrical) represented a high count for that state. A Gambel's White-crowned that spent most of the winter at a feeder in Marshfield, MA, was last seen 1 May (D. Furbish). A report of a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** in Oakland, ME, 6 May (G. York) was accompanied by a sketchy but convincing description. Pending review by the state committee, this bird would represent either the 2nd or 3rd record for Maine. A **Harris's Sparrow** made a one-day showing in Amherst, MA, 13 May (B. Lafleche et al.). Most of the few annual records of Lark Sparrow come from the fall season, so one in New Sharon, *Franklin*, ME, 29–30 May (LB) was noteworthy.

Two early Indigo Buntings in W. Tisbury, MA, on Martha's Vineyard 1–3 Apr (M. Keefe), may have arrived with the early warblers mentioned above. A Dickcissel that spent the winter at a feeding station in S. Boston remained until 15 Apr (RD). A male Yellow-headed Blackbird put in a one-day appearance in Northampton, MA, 16 May (B. Bieda et al.). The Boat-tailed Grackle was confirmed breeding again this year at the only known nest site in the Region, the Lordship Marshes in Stratford, CT (CB). The **Brambling** first found during the winter season at a feeding station in Weston, CT, was seen sporadically through 22 Mar (E. Lamore); see the previous issue for more details. Following the relatively big redpoll flight this past winter, a few attendant Hoary Redpolls remained at feeders into spring. They included one in Sandwich, NH, through 14 Mar (T. Vazzano), one in Easthampton, MA, through 21 Mar (BO), and at least 9 in Maine (*fide* JD, WT).

CORRIGENDA

The Tufted Duck reported last year from Bantam Lake, CT, was present 26 *Apr*, not 26 May.

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March was a continuation of late February, with warm weather and somewhat lower-than-normal rainfall. After a moderate beginning which encouraged many early arrivals, April was dominated by below-normal temperatures and above-average rainfall, resulting in a lackluster migration. However, conditions improved by the last two days of the month, with a good movement. May began very warm, with a good flight during the first week. Overall, May was warm with well-above normal rainfall and a few good flight days.

The highlights of the season were Yellow-nosed Albatross in New York and New Jersey, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in New Jersey, Cinnamon Teal in Delaware, Long-tailed Jaeger in Pennsylvania,

Hammond's Flycatcher in Pennsylvania, and Sprague's Pipit in New York. Also notable were Anhinga in New Jersey, White-faced Ibis in New York, a strong influx of Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites in the southern part of the region, Wilson's Plovers in New York and New Jersey, four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Jersey, Swainson's Warbler in New York, and Lark Bunting in New York.

Abbreviations: Bivalve (Public Service Electric and Gas Impoundments near Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., *Kent*, DE); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); C.H.S.P. (Cape Henlopen S.P., *Sussex*, DE); Derby Hill (hawk-watch near L. Ontario, *Oswego*, NY); E.I.C. (Niagara-Mohawk Energy Information Center, Scriba, *Oswego*, NY); Hamlin Beach (Lakewatch at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Refuge, *Brooklyn/Queens*, NY); Logan Tract (Ted Harvey Conservation Area/Logan Lane Tract, *Kent*, DE); Middlecreek (Middlecreek N.W.R., *Lancaster*, PA); Montauk (Montauk Pt., *Suffolk*, NY); NJBRC (New Jersey Birds Records Committee); NYSARC (New York Avian Records Committee); PORC (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National Recreation Area, *Monmouth*, NJ); SCMM (S. Cape May Meadow, W. Cape May, NJ).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Continuing the trend of last season, Red-necked Grebes staged a good movement during late Mar and Apr, with peak numbers of 51 at Hamlin Beach 30 Mar (WS) and 15 at Watervliet Reservoir, *Alabany*, NY, 9 Apr. Two Eared Grebes visited New York, one 14–15 Apr at Hamlin Beach (WS, S. Skelly) and one 29 Apr at a wastewater treatment plant in Batavia, *Genesee* (MM).

Other tubenoses included 20 Northern Fulmars seen from a fishing boat out of Manasquan Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ, 1 Mar (E. DeBellevue), and 3–4 each seen off Delaware and New Jersey in early March. But the numbers game was won by Sooty Shearwaters, with 250 about two miles off Cape May, NJ, 28 May (MG). On the following day, 125 were seen from shore at SCMM (PL), undoubtedly a New Jersey record. No fewer than 3 Manx Shearwaters were seen from land, one each 4 Mar at Sandy Hook (TBo, Derek Lovitch, *et al.*), 30 Apr at Georgica, *Suffolk*, NY (AB, HM), and 20 May off the Rockaway Inlet jetty, *Brooklyn*, NY (L. DeMarco).

An American White Pelican with a damaged left eye visited Ellenville, *Ulster*, NY, 26 Mar–7 Apr (P. Berger, m.ob.) and reappeared in Massachssetts 15 Apr. Another visited Dryden, *Tompkins*, NY, 27 May (M. Haribal). In recent years, New York records of White Pelicans have shifted inland from the coast. But the best of the pelican allies was an Anhinga over Whittingham WMA, *Sussex* (T. Halliwell et al.); there are fewer than 10 accepted records for New Jersey. Fifteen White Ibises were a good find over Cape May, NJ, 20 Apr (L. Amery). Even better was a White-faced Ibis at Jones Beach S.P., *Nassau*, 27 May (A. Guthrie), seen sporadically thereafter; of about 10 previous New York records, most are from Long Island.

SA The bird of the season was a Yellow-nosed Albatross, first seen 15 May at Fire I., Suffolk, NY, where it was discovered on the beach by park rangers and then immediately flew out to sea. It reappeared in New Jersey 21 May, flying over the s. end of the Garden State Parkway, Cape May (SF). It made its longest appearance over the Delaware Bayshore of s. Cape May for most of the day on 23 May (JL, m.ob., ph.), where it was seen at various locations cruising over land as often as over water and then roosting on the beach in the evening. This individual is almost certainly the same one that appeared in Massachussetts over Penikese I. 9 May and that was reported in Maryland over the shoreline at Assateague I. 11 May. Later sightings were 4 Jun over the woods and shoreline at S. Kingston, RI, and 5 June over Nantucket I., MA. It is worth noting that a Yellow-nosed Albatross, probably the same individual, was also seen last season off the coast of North Carolina 5 Feb. Many thanks to Shawneen Finnegan, Sy Schiff, and Phil Davis for helping us get this straight.

WATERFOWL

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** paid a one-day visit to Brigantine 27 May (J. Ambrozy, v.ob., ph.) for New Jersey's first state record, if accepted by NJBRC. This species has been reported from numerous widely scattered locations in North America in the past decade, although the possibility of escape from captivity remains. Eleven Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from locations scattered over New York; the only other report was of 2 at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA, until 8 Apr (A. Mirabella). The peak Snow Goose count was 75,000+ at Middlecreek 4 Mar (DH); huge flocks were also reported from *Bucks* and *Delaware*, PA, and from *Clinton*, NY, in the following month. Two Ross's Geese each were at Middlecreek 4 Mar (DH *et al.*) and Fogelsville, *Lehigh*, PA, at the beginning of that month (*fide* AH). Single individuals at Derby Hill 9 Mar (G. Phillips), and Schroeppel, *Oswego*, NY, 11 Mar (BP, MV) provided the 4th and 5th records for the Oneida L. Basin (details to NYSARC). Other reports, all of singles, were 2 from Pennsylvania, 2 from New Jersey, and one from New York. Small Canada Geese reported as *hutchinsii* were at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee*, NY, 10 Mar (2 birds, P. Yoerg) and one at Somerset, *Niagara*, NY, 19 Mar (B. Klick). A Barnacle Goose of unknown origin visited Lysander, *Onondaga*, NY, 16 Mar and remained for about eight days (BP, m.ob, ph. KMG; details to NYSARC).

Small numbers of Trumpeter Swans continue to occur in nw. parts of the Region. Six visited New York, one at Mendon Ponds, *Monroe*, 4 Mar (A. Clarridge) and 5 at Butler, *Wayne*, 22 Apr (RS). Another of unknown origin was at Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster*, PA, 15 Mar (B. Schutsky), where one or more have appeared in recent years. A **Cinnamon Teal** was at Bombay Hook 29 Mar (P. Dumont, H. Hallowell, B. Leewenburg). There is at least one previous accepted Delaware record; at this writing, no details have reached the Delaware Bird Records Committee. A Common Teal was at the Logan Tract 7 Mar (SO); another was at Bivalve (CS, JD, m.ob.) and one from the winter season remained in the Jamaica Bay area 3–14 Mar (v.ob.). A Common × Green-winged Teal hybrid with a wide white vertical bar and a horizontal white stripe was reported from Ingraham, *Clinton*, NY, 16 Mar (DHo). By far the highest count of American Green-winged Teal was 4000 at Bivalve 27 Mar (CS, JD, v.ob.).

Last season's female Tufted Duck at Silver L., Rehoboth Beach, *Sussex*, DE, remained until 5 Mar (SD). Another, possibly the same individual present there last fall, was at Old Sam's Pond, Pt. Pleasant, *Ocean*, NJ, until 11 Mar (v.ob.). And single males were recorded at Cooper's Neck Pond, Southampton, *Suffolk*, NY, 4 Mar (J. Askildsen, P. Maldonado, M. Wolf) and Eastport, *Suffolk*, NY, 7 Mar (J. DiCostanzo). Four King Eiders, including 2 adult males, were at e. Long I. in early March; another remained to late May off Cupsogue County Park on Moriches Bay, *Suffolk*, NY. Common Eiders were present

in all three months of the season, including 5 at Montauk 12 Mar (HM, AB, A. Lauro), one off Sandy Hook 6 Apr (R. Kane), and one at Montauk 5 May (PAB, SM). Over 60 Harlequin Ducks were reported in Mar and Apr, all but two from coastal locations. The maximum count was 25 at Barnegat Light S.P., *Ocean*, NJ, 6 Mar (*fide* AH). Late were 15 Surf Scoters at C.H.S.P. 20 May (MG, B. Peterjohn). Long-tailed Ducks were at Port Mahon, *Kent*, DE, 10 May (G. Lovelace) and Sandy Hook 30 May (MF).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

Several stretches of unfavorable weather reduced numbers at the Great Lakes hawkwatches; with notable exceptions, numbers were down at coastal hawkwatches as well. However, kites put on a fabulous show this year. Swallow-tailed Kites visited all four states. One appeared in Delaware at Bombay Hook, 12 May (*fide* C. Campbell). Seven visited New Jersey, a record year for the state. Three were in the Cape May area 8 May (D.&E. Schwenk), 11 & 12 May (v.ob.), and 20 May (C. Lewis); 2 were at Sandy Hook 6 May (JLi) and 11 May (DB, WM); one was at the Watchung Reservation, *Union*, 28 May and the following few days (D.&C. Knowlton et al.); and one was at Roosevelt, *Monmouth*, 7 May (G. Wilson). In Pennsylvania a single bird was reported 19 May near L. Nockamixon, *Berks* (B. Huntsberger). And 2 were in New York, at Alley Pond Park, *Queens*, 10 May (E. Carrozza et al.) and at the Ripley hawkwatch, *Chautauqua*, 10 May (LDF et al.). Meanwhile 23 Mississippi Kites graced the area 26 Apr–28 May. Fourteen were reported in New Jersey, 8 in Pennsylvania, and one in New York.

Bald Eagles were widespread in excellent numbers this season. The Pennsylvania Game Commission reported 18 nests in e. PA. A single Swainson's Hawk graced the Region, down from last spring's three; it was at Ripley 27 Apr (LDF). Rough-legged Hawks echoed last winter's high numbers, particularly in n. parts of the Region. The peak count was 25 at Ft. Edward, *Washington*, NY (*fide* JDG). Golden Eagles were well-represented even away from hawkwatches, with one in Delaware at Prime Hook, *Sussex*, DE, 25 Mar (MG), one in New Jersey at Paulinskill L., *Sussex*, 2 Apr (JB, MBa), and about 20 scattered through New York, mostly upstate. Derby Hill had a record maximum of 25 on 25 Apr, with a total of 92 for the season. The 24th of April produced several seasonal peak raptor counts: Sharp-shinned Hawk—649 at Sandy Hook and 270 at C.H.S.P.; Cooper's Hawk—24 at Sandy Hook; American Kestrel—84 at C.H.S.P.; and Merlin—90 at C.H.S.P., one of the biggest Merlin days ever in Delaware.

The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continues to explore new territory in the East. This one at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge 27 May 2000 was the first to be recorded in New Jersey. *Photograph by Alan Brady*

A Purple Gallinule was found at Sandy Hook 21 Apr (JLi), where it has appeared previously. Sandhill Cranes continued last year's record-shattering performance with 52 reported: 6 in New Jersey, 4 in Pennsylvania, and 42 in upstate New York.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

For the second consecutive spring Wilson's Plovers were one of the seasonal highlights. One reported at Shinnecock Inlet, *Suffolk*, 19–24 Mar consorting with Piping Plovers (G. Arpino) appears to be New York's earliest by more than a month (HM). Another was reported at Bivalve 26 May (MI, details to NJBRC). In spite of our recent good luck, this species remains a rare vagrant in the Region. Piping Plover remains in trouble, with only about 12 reported from New Jersey and Delaware. Eastern Long Island provided a bright spot, however, with 24 on 18 Mar at Westhampton Dunes (R. Guthrie) and at least 11 nests on the North Fork (B. Prentice).

Black-necked Stilts ventured n. from their Delaware strongholds, with 6 reported from New Jersey and 2 from New York. The New Jersey reports were one 8 May at Turkey Point, *Cumberland* (J. Hanson), one 12 May at Brigantine (JDa), 3 on 26 May at Two Mile Landing, *Cape May* (BC), and one on 1 May at Locust, *Monmouth* (G. Dempster). The New York reports were of one 29 Apr at Sagaponack Pond, *Suffolk* (HM, AB) and 9–17 May at Jamaica Bay (K. Feustel). Seven Whimbrels 21 May at Pierpont Pier provided the second *Rockland*, NY, record (C. Weiss), while a white-backed individual at Brigantine 12 May (JDa) was of one of the Eurasian races. Brigantine hosted the peak number of 125 on 30 Apr (*fide* AH). Two Curlew Sandpipers visited the Region, one at Thompson's Beach, *Cumberland*, NJ, 23 May (D. Mizrahi, P. Hodgetts) and one at Bombay Hook 14–17 May (S. Gonzaga, v.ob.). Six Ruffs were recorded: males were present 15 May at Thousand Acre Marsh, Delaware City, *New Castle*, DE (AE, JGo, J. White) and 25 Mar at Bivalve (MI). Females were in New Jersey at Bivalve 14 Mar (J.&K. Lukens) and 6 Apr (CS), at Del Haven, *Cape May*, 11 May (M. Hoffman), and at Cape May 5–6 May (G. Graham, A. Robinson).

A **Long-tailed Jaeger** 22–23 May, first sighted from the *Lancaster* shore at Conejohela Flats and later from the *York*

side, gave Pennsylvania its first state record (DF, JH, ph. RW, vt.). A Franklin's Gull was reported 21–23 May at Conejohela Flats (DH *et al.*), along the lower Susquehanna where the species has appeared previously on a few occasions; another was reported at Silver Lake, *Monmouth*, NJ, 18 Mar (E. Bellevue). Following several sightings at the same location last season, an adult Thayer's Gull was reported at Florence, *Burlington*, NJ, 11 Mar (TB, W. Dasey, W. Murphy, F. Winfelder, details requested for NJBRC).

Sandwich Terns were present, one each off Two Mile Landing, *Cape May*, NJ, 26 May (BC) and at C.H.S.P. 30 May (A. Guarante). This rare visitor is much less common in spring than in fall. Five Roseate Terns were reported in New Jersey, one at Island Beach S.P., *Ocean*, 13 May (F. Lesser, R. Steelman); one at Sandy Hook 18 May (MF); two 5–22 May off Cape May Pt. jetties (v.ob.); and one, possibly one of the two above, at Bunker Pond, Cape May Pt., 25 May (TP, LZ et al.). Though it breeds as close as e. Long Island, Roseate Terns are scarce in New Jersey. An Arctic Tern in bad weather at C.H.S.P. 21 May (MG) was an excellent sighting. Extremely tantalizing was an inland report, yet to be considered by PORC, of one at Glen Morgan L., *Berks*, PA, 20 May (K. Lebo, M. Wlasniewski). Arctic Terns seen from land along the coast in our Region are rare enough; inland reports need careful consideration. A Least Tern at Collins L., *Schenectady*, 4 May (S. Adair, W. Lee) provided New York's Hudson-Mohawk Region with its 3rd record, the first since 1989. One to two Black Guillemots were at Montauk 5–11 Mar (JF et al.) and 3 were at Moriches Inlet, *Suffolk*, NY, 6 Mar. Atlantic Puffins were reported, 2 each at sea, off Manasquan Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ, 5 Mar (*fide* AH) and e. of Indian River Inlet, *Susssex*, DE, 6 Mar (P. Guris).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove visited Kempton, *Berks*, PA, 7 May (D. Barber). Pennsylvania has only 1–2 previous records. PORC will need to consider not only the identification, by an observer familiar with the species, but also the bird's origin. Another collared-dove appeared in Central Park, NYC, 19 May. The NYSARC has been leery of accepting records of this species because of the number in captivity in the area. A White-winged Dove of unknown origin was at Pierpont Pier, *Rockland*, NY, 11 May (G. Herskovics). Records of this rare vagrant have increased in the past decade.

SA The big flycatcher news was a **Hammond's Flycatcher** trapped, measured, and banded 13 May at the John Heinz N.W.R. at Tinicum, *Philadelphia*, PA (R.&M. Miller). The banders became suspicious upon noting the bird's small, pointed bill, and gray breast-band. Measurements, coloration, and bill shape confirmed the identification. A probable Hammond's Flycatcher was collected in Pennsylvania in 1966, but the specimen was damaged, and the species is listed as hypothetical. If accepted by PORC, this record will represent Pennsylvania's first and only the Region's second.

Though cuckoos of both species were scarce in the southernmost part of the Region, they were well-represented elsewhere and increasing toward the end of the season, presumably in response to infestations of Tent and Gypsy Moth caterpillars. The only Snowy Owl of the season, a somewhat late individual, was at Remsen, *Oneida*, NY, 4 Apr (D. Hill). In contrast to last year when Northern Saw-whet Owls seemed "almost non-existent," they were well-reported n. of Delaware, particularly in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley (AK), sw. *Burlington*, NJ (TB), and several New York locations. Chuck-will's-widows at unusual locations included one in e. *Berks*, PA, 26 May (C. Elwell), a county with only three previous records, and one in Howell Township, NJ, 13 May in interior *Monmouth* (A. Spears).

A fantastic 417 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were trapped and released at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory's two banding locations at Hamlin Beach and near Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, NY (*fide* RS). Above-average numbers of migrating Red-headed Woodpeckers passed through and 4 pairs were noted at Redden State Forest, *Sussex*, DE (MG, F. Rohrbacher, DAC), while others were present at Lebanon State Forest, *Burlington*, NJ (*fide* AH), both traditional nesting areas. Four pairs at a breeding area in Delaware are the most in several decades. A pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers nested successfully for the third consecutive season at High Point S.P., *Sussex* (MBa, R. Bramhall). This pair earlier provided New Jersey's 2nd documented breeding record just a short time ago. A Black-backed Woodpecker 27 Apr at Old Forge, *Herkimer*, NY, provided the season's only report.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An excellent flight on 24 May at Sandy Hook produced 10+ Eastern Wood-Peewees and 40+ *Empidonax*, including 6 Yellow-bellieds, 3 Alders, and 8 Leasts (TBo). Yellow-bellied and Alder Flycatchers passed through in excellent numbers, particularly in the southern portions, where they do not nest.

Also of note were four reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in s. New Jersey, at SCMM 6 May (SF, PL), at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, 6–7 May (P. Kerlinger, S. Sperlak), in Lawrence Township, *Cumberland*, 8 May (L. Johnson), and at Tuckahoe W.M.A., *Cape May/Atlantic*, 16 May (JL). This rare vagrant has been seen in New Jersey in five of the past ten years. Two Loggerhead Shrikes in New York made the season a good one, though not in the same league with winter 1995–1996. One was at Guilderland, *Albany*, 20 Mar (S. Tuttle), the first in New York's Hudson-Mohawk Region since 1995 (details requested for NYSARC); a second was near Montezuma N.W.R., *Wayne*, 20 May (†C. Butler, K. Hawley, ph. KMG). Reports of 29 Northern Shrikes echoed last winter's incursion. One in *Essex* in ne. New York 26 Apr (R. Brown, C. Slatkin) provided a record late date for the county and nearly for the entire state as well. An exceptionally high total of 19–21 Philadelphia Vireos was reported. Of these, 4 were in NJ and 9 were in se. NY, where the species is a rare spring migrant. Six to 8 came from the Oneida L. Basin, NY, where it is somewhat more common. Identification of this rare spring migrant requires caution.

In contrast to the recent annual fall incursions was a notable spring sighting of a Cave Swallow at Cape May 30 Apr–2 May (JD), only the 3rd in spring for NJ and the Region. Reports of 30 Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrushes made a good showing. Of these thrushes, 8 were part of the fallout at Sandy Hook 24 May (TBo). A large Swainson's Thrush flight took place on the night of 21 May at Hamburg, *Berks*, PA, at about 2230 EDT under a cloudy sky with a low ceiling and the nearby Kittatinny Ridge in fog. There were several thrush calls per second from different directions; many hundreds must have passed (K. Grim). The flight continued for three nights. On 9 Apr, 175 Hermit Thrushes were reported along roadsides in *Sussex* and *Warren*, NJ, where they had been driven by a late-season snowstorm that ended that morning (W.&S. Wander). Other reports of 20, 60, and 83 behaving the same way came from *Morris*, *Sussex*, and *Warren*, NJ, and *Sullivan*, NY.

Echoes of this movement came from as far away as *Berks*, PA, and *Albany*, NY.

A search for the Western Meadowlark present in the area turned up a **Sprague's Pipit** at Dryden, *Tomkins*, NY, 22 Apr (PLi, †B. Kurtz), furnishing a first record for New York and the Region if accepted by NYSARC. Also in upstate New York, the remainder of last winter's Bohemian Waxwing invasion left 50 at Warrensburg, *Warren*, 7 Mar (D. DiPietro); 300 in Paris, *Oneida*, 14–15 Mar (MPe); 200 at Kirkland, *Oneida*, 29 Mar (MPe); and 100 and 300 at two locations near Plattsburgh, *Clinton*, 6 Apr (E. Fitts).

WARBLERS

With a few exceptions, the weather was not conducive to warbler fallouts. There seemed to be an unusual number of Blue-winged × Golden-winged Warbler hybrids this year, with 10 Brewster's and 9 Lawrence's reported from n. New Jersey and Pennsylvania northward. Tennessee Warblers improved significantly on last year's showing, with 49 reported and a peak count of 11 at W. Monroe, *Oswego*, 13 May, but Cape May Warblers continued scarce. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Central Park, NYC, 2–7 Apr (R. Pasquier, *fide* TF) may well have been New York's earliest ever. A Swainson's Warbler 7–8 May at Central Park (E. Lam, N. Wagerick, TF), was an excellent find; there are only about 10 previous records for New York. Single Connecticut Warlers, rare spring migrants, visited two locations: Verona, *Oneida*, 17 May (B. Best) and Lancaster, *Erie*, 28 May (MM). Mourning Warblers did well, too, with reports of about 60. Sandy Hook produced the two high counts, with 5 each, on 21 May in drizzle (TBo, S. Keller) and on the fallout day of 24 May (Tbo).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Consistent with a continuing range expansion, Summer Tanagers staged a modest incursion into ne. New Jersey and se. New York. About 17 were reported away from their usual breeding areas: 6 at Sandy Hook, one at Tom's River, *Ocean*, NJ, one at Schunnemunk Mt., *Orange*, NY, 3 in NYC, and 6 on Long Island.

Two Lark Sparows were reported from e. Long Island, one 18 Mar at Water Mill (SM, PLi) and one 5 May at Montauk (PAB, SM, JF, PLi). An outstanding find was a Lark Bunting at Alabama, *Genesee*, NY, 5–19 Mar (A. Kehlanbeck, m.ob.); of fewer than records for New York, only one or two have been away from the se. corner of the state. A Harris's Sparrow at E.I.C. 9 May (M. A. Koeneke, MV, BP) provided New York's Oneida Lake Basin with its first spring record and 4th overall (ph. and details to NYSARC). Along with an excellent movement of White-Crowned Sparrows this spring, an adult Gambel's turned up at Water Mill, *Suffolk*, NY (SM, PLi), where it was seen with the Lark Sparrow. A Dark-eyed Junco, probably Pink-sided, was trapped, photographed, banded, and released at Fire I., *Suffolk*, NY, 2 May (SM); museum skins are now being reviewed. A female Blue Grosbeak, far from its normal haunts, was at E.I.C. 7 May (BP, KMG, MV, m.ob.) and will provide the Oneida Lake Basin's 3rd record if accepted (details and ph. to NYSARC). And a Painted Bunting visited Bethpage SP, *Nassau*, NY, 24 May (Sharon Bart) for the day, but could not be relocated later.

A Western Meadowlark at Dryden, *Tompkins*, 8 Apr–25 May (K. Rosenberg, ph. KMG, m.ob.) provided considerable excitement. Even though New York has at least two breeding records, the species is still a rare vagrant. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported, 2 each in w. and se. New York. A female was at Hamlin, *Monroe*, 7–8 Mar (m.ob.) and an ad. male was at Amity Lake, *Allegany*, 11–12 Apr (V. Pitzrick), while one of unspecified sex was at Van Cortlandt Park, *Bronx*, 9–16 Mar (m.ob.); another was at Montauk 16 Mar (PAB, F. Buckley).

The only reports of Pine Grosbeak were of one at Greenfield Center, *Saratoga*, NY, 10 Apr (J. de la Torre) and 2 at Hague, *Warren*, NY, 17 Apr (R. Lamb). White-winged Crossbills at a Newark, *New Castle*, DE, feeder until 21 May (JGo *et al.*) may well be record-late for the state. Large numbers of Common Redpolls from last winter's invasion remained into March, with just a few present until late April. Many flocks of a hundred or more were reported from n. NY, with good numbers as far s. as *Sullivan* and *Ulster*, where nearly 300 were reported. And no fewer than 11 Hoary Redpolls were reported from widely scattered locations through n. and w. NY, nearly one for every 100 Common.

ADDENDA

On 2 Jan this year, a Black-tailed Gull was reported at L. Ontelelaunee, *Berks* (†P. Saenger, K. Knight, ph.), providing

Adult Long-tailed Jaegers are always a stunning sight, this one at Conejohela Flatsall the more so as it provided Pennsylvania with its first state record. The photo was taken the second day of the bird's 22–23 May 2000 visit. *Photograph by Rick Wiltraut*

Pennsylvania's first record if accepted by PORC. After repeated viewings of the videotape of a skulking bird, the NJBRC concluded that the Le Conte's Sparrow reported at Sandy Hook for the week following 26 Dec 1998 was in fact a Grasshopper Sparrow, itself a good find, though not quite up to a Le Conte's.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 254.

middle atlantic coast

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Spring was early again, as has been the recent trend. March migrants were certainly helped along by a period of strong southerlies that may have been responsible for such remarkably early discoveries as the Barn Swallow and Whip-poor-will listed below. The trend continued into early and mid-April, when most species arrived ahead of schedule and record-early dates continued to be set.

Locations can be assumed to be in Maryland, except that each Virginia locale is annotated the *first time* it appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assateague (Assateague I. National Seashore, *Worcester*, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, *Northampton*, VA); Craney

(Craney I. Disposal Area, *Portsmouth*, VA); DC (District of Columbia); Deal (Deal Island W.M.A., *Somerset*, MD); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton*, VA); Kiptopeke (Kiptopeke S.P., *Northampton*, VA); P.L.S.P. (Point Lookout S.P., *Saint Mary's*, MD); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's*, MD); P.W.R.C. (Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, *Prince George's*, MD); Vaughn (E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester*, MD).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A basic **Pacific/Arctic Loon** (@) on the South R. at Edgewater 19 (†W. Heigermeijer, S. Droege) & 22 Mar. (S. Arnold, B. Taylor) will serve as *Anne Arundel*'s first and Maryland's 4th report. The Pacific Loon was first documented in the state only last November. An imm. Red-throated Loon was late at Lapidum, *Harford*, 21–22 May (DP, S. Simon). An Eared Grebe 29 Mar–4 Apr was unusual inland at Beaverdam Res., *Loudoun*, VA (DFA, SH), whereas one 12 Apr at N. Beach, *Calvert* (JLS), was at a perennial location. An American White Pelican was at Hog Island W.M.A., *Surry*, VA, 26 Apr (BT) and another roosted at Bodkin I., *Queen Anne's*, in late May (@ PRS). The species has become annual in Maryland in spring. With a booming population in the lower Bay, it has been surprising that relatively few Brown Pelicans have penetrated beyond *Dorchester* and *Saint Mary's*. This spring 4 at Rose Haven, *Anne Arundel*, 22 May (DB) and one resting on Bodkin I., *Queen Anne's*, 31 May (PRS) foreshadowed the flood that would reach the Upper Bay this summer. Northern Gannets occasionally stage great invasions that reach far into the Bay. This year was one of the better on record, with frequent sightings as far up as the Bay Bridge (which appears to represent a barrier to their movement). Among a number of excellent counts were 205 from Cobb I., *Charles*, 27 Mar (MJI), a record-high for that county, where gannets are irregular in spring. Late Great Cormorants were at P.L.S.P. 6 May (GM) and Assateague 25 May (MJI). A Least Bittern 11 Apr at N. Beach(CMM) was notably early. Surprisingly, a Snowy Egret pair built a nest on a duck blind at the mouth of Broad Cr., *Talbot*, first noticed 26 May (PRS). Black-crowned Night-Herons were first found nesting at L. Whetstone, *Montgomery*, a couple years ago; this year a nest was seen 11 Apr (K. Stewart). The vanguard of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron arrival was again at a Baltimore residence, where they returned this year 23 Mar (PW). Also in Baltimore, three nests and 6 adults were seen 6 May (E&NK) at Wyman Park. Maryland's 2nd well-documented **White-faced Ibis** (@) was a first-summer found at Vaughn 25 May (†MJI), relocated 26 (MLH, MH, GM) & 27 May (D&CB, H.&M. Mudd). In addition, an alternate-plumaged adult (possibly the same as last year?) flew by 28 May (DC, MAT, JLS).

SA A nominate ***bernicla* Brant** (Dark-bellied Brent Goose) 22 Mar (@ †ESB) at Cape Charles, *Northampton*, VA, is surely the bird of the season. Although the Black Brant (*nigricans*) of the Pacific Coast is known from a number of East Coast records (especially from New Jersey, New York, and Massachussetts), the nominate subspecies has been found only once previously and is as yet undocumented by specimen or photograph. The three Brant subspecies might be granted full species status in the near future. Observers in the Region and beyond would do well to study up on Brant identification and check each bird carefully (look for an upcoming *North American Birds* paper by P. A. Buckley, S. Mitra, and E. S. Brinkley).

Small Canada Geese not thought to be the expected *hutchinsii* were seen at Hurlock WTP, *Dorchester*, 13 Mar (HTA, GLA) and Bellevue, *Talbot*, 18 Mar (HTA). The occurrence of other races in the Region has been indicated by sight reports but has not yet been documented. A Eurasian Wigeon 3 Mar in *Fauquier*, VA (KG), one at Deal 7 Mar (PD), and 2 there 19 Mar (SHD) were the only reports. A female Harlequin Duck 21 May off Assateague (SHD) bettered Maryland's previous record late date of 9 May. Unprecedented inland in late May, an ad. male Long-tailed Duck was on Centennial L., *Howard*, 26 May+ (BO, v.o.). A record-early egg date for Hooded Merganser was established 3 Mar at P.W.R.C. (C. Turner). They also nested at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, where two broods were seen 4–24 May (CF, KG).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Ft. Smallwood, *Anne Arundel*, hawk-watch logged its poorest season since regular coverage (305+ hours) began in 1994, with only 8926 raptors in 402.2 hours through 6 Jun, including record lows for Osprey and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. According to Ricciardi, bad weather was the culprit. Although Feb and Mar counts were above-average, numbers in Apr (usually the best month) were only half of the 5-yr average at 3476. Coverage was only possible on 22 days and several of those were "marginal weather-wise." May was average but "the damage had been done." The season did log a record 17 species of raptors (see below).

Swallow-tailed Kites typically occur in the Region in May or early June, but 2 very early ones were seen this year on 2 Apr at False Cape S.P., VA, (J. Smith) and 7 Apr at Martinak S.P., *Caroline*, (@†R. Orr, a record-early Maryland date). One imm. passed Ft. Smallwood on a more typical date of 18 May (@GS) and was followed an hour later by an imm. Mississippi Kite (GS, HLW). Other Mississippis at Ft. Smallwood occurred 9 & 24 May (SR¡). One at Vaughn 25 May (MJI, MO et al.) provided a *Worcester* first, and others in Maryland were at Jug Bay 19 May (DB), Schoolhouse Pond (JLS) and P.R.N.A.S. 26 May (KR), and at Cylburn Mansion, *Baltimore*, 13 May (K. E. Costley, S. Geddes et al.). Pairs returned to Runt Powell's Farm, *Halifax*, VA, 30 Apr (J. Blalock) and Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, 7 May (R. Hilton). A dark-morph adult **Red-tailed Hawk** heading n. past Ft. Smallwood 6 Apr (@†HLW) was apparently a western *calurus*, a first for *Anne Arundel* and only the 4th for the state. It was conceivably the same bird that wintered at the I-66/Route 238 junction, *Prince William*, VA, last seen there 22 Mar (TMD). A Golden Eagle at Ft. Smallwood 6 Apr (HLW) was the first in spring there; one at Williamsburg, VA, 1 May (BT) was notably late.

Rare away from coastal saltmarshes, single Black Rails sang 15–23 May (DB) at Jug Bay and at James Run 26 May (E. Blom) for a *Harford* second. A good flight of Sandhill Cranes reached the Region this year, including 3 flying past the Belle Haven Marina, *Fairfax*, 6 Mar (†S. Suter); one between Routes 614 & 15, *Culpepper*, VA, 15–16 Apr (KH, G. B. Harris); one at E.S.V.N.W.R. 27 Apr and 1 May (CB); and one at Univ. of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard*, 29 Apr (BO, JS).

An above-average number of American Golden-Plovers included singles at Hart 8 Apr (EJS), Craney 29 Apr–4 May (BL, G. Weinberger et al.), Scotland, *Saint Mary's*, 13–14 May (PC, KR et al.), and Bradford Johnson Rd., *Kent*, 20 May (JLS). Black-necked Stilt reports were pretty much from the typical locations, except for one at Salisbury 21 Apr (SHD), a *Wicomico* first, and 2 off Route 611, *Worcester*, 25 May (MJI). Nesting again occurred at Elliott I., with one on a nest 24 May (MO et al.), the first confirmation this season. Four American Avocets at Trent Hall, *Saint Mary's*, 16 Apr (J. Fuchs) provided one of

SA A new shorebird location is the Poplar Island Dredge Spoil Impoundments, which have been under construction since 1998 and which now have three large impoundments, with another in progress. The site is similar to the Hart-Miller Island facility in Baltimore County, which has proven a gold mine for the shorebird-deprived state of Maryland. Because Poplar is lower in the Bay than Hart-Miller, we expect coastal species to appear there with more frequency. Access is by boat only. A preliminary visit there 18 May (MJI, GLA) yielded 600 shorebirds of 14 species, highlighted by 19 White-rumped and 4 Stilt Sandpipers. Though the habitat seemed appropriate, overall numbers were somewhat lower than would be expected. The reasons for this are unclear, but it will be interesting to observe whether this facility will "mature" to the same level of attractiveness for shorebirds as Hart-Miller. Extensive rip-rap around the edges has already proven attractive to Purple Sandpipers, 8 of which Spitzer found on a 27 May visit.

few county records, while 3 at Hart 16 May (EJS) were typical in location and timing. An early Solitary Sandpiper at Kershner's Pond, *Frederick*, 24 Mar (JLS, MH, MJI, K. Fehskens) was a full two weeks ahead of the next ones. Whimbrels had their typical late May departure from the coast, with 787 still at Willis Wharf, *Accomack*, 23 May (SHD), whereas 33 at non-coastal Hart 26 May (EJS) were typical of the mass withdrawal. Western Sandpiper is still rare in spring but one was seen near Scotland, *Saint Mary's*, 9 May (PC) and 3 stopped in at N. Beach 24 May (JLS). White-rumped Sandpipers in April are unusual, so one near Cherrix Lane, *Worcester*, 30 Apr (MLH) was noteworthy. **Curlew Sandpipers** were found at Craney 4 May (DLH) and Chincoteague 11 May (BL), the most reliable locations in the Region. The Thorofare Gap Wetlands (a.k.a. North Fork Wetlands) is a recent mitigation project that provided some good birding this spring. Good shorebird spots are scarce in the Virginia Piedmont and highlights at Thorofare included 2 White-rumped Sandpipers 27 May (SR) and 6 on 29 May (SR, KG), and a rare spring Long-billed Dowitcher 3 May (†SR, CT). The only other Long-billed Dowitchers were the 15 identified by sight and call at Elliott I. 8 May (MJI, GLA), along with 2 Short-billed Dowitchers. Long-billeds have been suspected of wintering there, so it is possible that these birds overwintered. Ruffs were found at the new shorebird pond at the Assateague Visitor's Center 15–20 Apr (PD et al.), Route 577 on 21 Apr (G. Lovelace), and Kibler Rd. 29 Apr (ph. MH, JLS), the last two constituting 2nd and 3rd records for *Caroline*. Stilt Sandpipers were found in surprising numbers this spring, including 2–6 at the Assateague pond 22 Apr–8 May (PD, SHD, MJI); Lakeside Ponds, *Harford*, 27–28 Apr (ph.MH et al.); Harney Rd. pond 20–21 May (PCD et al.); and Kingman L., DC, 28 May (BC), along with five other locations. Singles of both Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes were at Hart 13 & 20 May (EJS), while 6 Red-neckeds and 4 Wilson's were there 27 May (EJS et al.).

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The Region's 9 Little Gull reports were concentrated in March, but one first-summer at Hart 27 May (EJS et al.) was one of the latest ever for Maryland. Three Black-headed Gulls included singles in *Saint Mary's* at P.R.N.A.S. 30 Mar (KR) and P.L.S.P. 9 Apr (PC, A. Bishop). As was the case last spring, "Shrimpy" the **Kelp Gull** lingered at Sandgates, *Saint Mary's*, to 4 Mar and was absent through the rest of the spring, save for a lone appearance 25 Apr (*fide* J. Kostenko). It reappeared during the summer, but no one knows where it goes in the intervening time—perhaps looking for mates at one of the central Bay gull colonies? A late first-summer Iceland Gull was at Hart 20 & 27 May (EJS et al.). The first returning Caspian Tern was at Jug Bay 30 Mar (DB). A single Black Tern report was below average. A large alcid at Ocean City Inlet 5–7 Mar (A. Ripley, C&DB) was not identified.

After an exceptional owl year, a few lingered late. A Short-eared Owl 6 May at Irish Grove (GMJ, G. Brewer) was late and at a locality where nesting was suspected a little more than a decade ago. Later searches there did not reveal breeding activity. A Long-eared Owl 8 Apr near Easton, *Talbot* (MJI, GLA), was late but showed no particular signs of nesting. A Whip-poor-will that sang a couple times at Dameron, *Saint Mary's*, 9 Mar (PC) established a record-early Maryland arrival. The next, 24 Mar (KR) at Hollywood, *Saint Mary's*, was also early. "Spot," the much-loved wintering Rufous Hummingbird, was last seen at the Lorton, VA, feeder 9 Mar (S. Gombar). The latest Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by almost a month was one 18 May on The Mall in DC (JF). A flicker with the head pattern of a typical Yellow-shafted but with bright orange undersides to the remiges and retrices was at Annapolis, *Anne Arundel*, 13 Apr (†MJI). Ten Olive-sided Flycatchers 5–27 May was a good total, but only 3 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, all at Rock Creek Park 16 May (GM, BC), was surprisingly low for the season but good for a single day. An early Eastern Kingbird appeared 6 Apr at Hurlock W.T.P. (MJI). An ad. male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Hart 6 May (@EJS) was new for *Baltimore* and about the 12th for Maryland. It was closely followed by a couple in s. NJ, possibly harbingers of the summer's mini-invasion to s. states.

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Loggerhead Shrike at Cool Spring Rd., *Harford*, 22 Apr (D. Hafner) was the only migrant record this season, but a pair discovered near Lilypons, *Frederick*, 21 May (CMM et al.) was even more exciting. Although regular nesters in this general area through 1995, Loggerheads have apparently not nested since. This pair was watched through the summer (see the next issue). In the Virginia Piedmont a few pairs persist, including a pair near Rapidan, *Culpepper*, VA, present through the season (KH, v.ob.) and observed nest-building 11 Mar (J. Fitzgerald). Two extremely early Yellow-throated Vireos were at Kiptopeke 30 Mar (CB). There were five reports of Philadelphia Vireo. Early Northern Rough-winged Swallows appeared 11 Mar (M. Bowen) at Hughes Hollow, 12 Mar (AM) at Dyke Marsh, and 16 Mar (G. Gough) at Anacostia River Park, DC. A Bank Swallow at Ft. Belvoir 30 Mar (TMD) was also early. Record early and three weeks before its followers, a Barn Swallow appeared 1 Mar (GM) at P.R.N.A.S. And topping off the unusual swallow records, 2 **Cave Swallows** were seen 1 May (ESB) at Cape Charles, *Northampton*, VA.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch 26 May at a Parsonsburg, *Wicomico*, feeder was unusually late (ELP). A Sedge Wren 3 May (CT) in the Cedar Run Wetlands, *Prince William*, VA, was unusual for the Virginia Piedmont. A singing Veery 7 Apr at P.W.R.C. was early (K. Klimkiewicz). There were nine reports of Bicknell's Thrushes, including a county-first singing at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, *Howard*, 13 May (CSR) and a couple of birds at Weyanoke Sanctuary, Norfolk, VA, 13–21 May (DLH, A. Whitlock, tape ESB et al.); Brinkley reported that they are annual at the latter location. One observer heard 4 in nocturnal migration 7 May over *Montgomery* (PO). This method is clearly the way to survey for this difficult-to-identify species, which rarely sings on migration, though

recordings and sonogram analysis should be used to confirm the subtly different nocturnal calls.

Early warblers included a Golden-winged 21 Apr (S. French) at Carroll Mill Rd., *Howard*; a Black-throated Blue 22 Apr at Surveyor Rd.; a Northern Waterthrush 21 Apr at Hallmark Rd., *Howard* (W. Ebert); a record-tying Worm-eating 11 Apr at Twilley's Bridge, *Wicomico* (C&DB), and another 14 Apr at Hollywood, *Saint Mary's* (KR) with a Hooded Warbler; and an Ovenbird 4 Apr at Dameron, *Saint Mary's* (PC), which bested the previous record by a day. Another Ovenbird on Maryland's Lower E. Shore 5 Apr (SHD) and reports from three additional locations on 7 Apr (v.o.) indicated a generally early arrival for the species. A Yellow-breasted Chat 15 Apr at Mt. Olive Church Rd., *Worcester* (PD), was fairly early as well. A small push of early warblers arrived 8 Apr across the Region. Northern Parulas were reported suddenly from 15 locations 8 Apr, though there were no earlier reports. Black-throated Green Warblers 7–8 Apr at Dameron, *Saint Mary's* (PC), and 8 Apr at Marriottsville, *Howard* (T. D. Coskren), were ahead of schedule. Yellow-throated Warblers arrived 25 Mar at Jug Bay (DB) and were found immediately thereafter at a range of Coastal Plain locations. The first Prairie Warblers were 7 on 1 Apr at the Great Dismal Swamp, *Suffolk*, VA (L. Gore), followed by a female 7 Apr at Huntley Meadows and others at several locations over the next couple days. Cerulean Warblers are tough to detect in migration, so those 6 May on Maryland's Lower E. Shore (SHD), at P.L.S.P. 9 (PC) & 11 May (GM), and 11 May at Greenwell S.P., *Saint Mary's* (KR), were notable. Wilson's Warblers seemed to be reported in good numbers this year and there were about 15 Mourning Warbler reports. The latest Myrtle Warbler departed 28 May (KG), when one was seen at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, VA. At least 3 territorial male Swainson's Warblers were found in the Pocomoke R. area of Maryland's Lower E. Shore (v.o.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The first tanagers arrived 16 Apr, with a Summer at False Cape S.P. (J. Spahr) and a Scarlet at Waverly, *Sussex*, VA (D. Bradshaw). Chipping Sparrows were in evidence a bit earlier than is typical, with several reports in early March away from wintering areas. A singing Clay-colored Sparrow 29 Apr at Assateague (SHD) was the first in spring for *Worcester*. The Lark Sparrow at Bywater Rd., *Anne Arundel*, was last seen 28 Mar (B. Schreitz). Non-coastal Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Cornfield Harbor, *Saint Mary's*, 15 Apr (PC), and 3 at N. Beach 3 May (JLS). Eleven Lincoln's Sparrows were reported this spring. The **Harris's Sparrow** at Sykesville, *Carroll*, lingered through 1 May (@D. Harvey). A Slate-colored Junco 6 May was late at Hallmark Rd., *Howard* (W. Ebert), with others notably late in DC 1 May at Rock Creek Park (BC, GMc) and 3 May on The Mall (JF). An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a Timberleigh, *Howard*, feeder 16 Apr (D. Nagengast). Not mentioned in the Winter Season report, 3 Painted Buntings (2 ad. males, one green) apparently wintered again at Holiday Trav-L Park, VA, (ph. LL, TMD, v.o.), with a male last reported 7 Mar (BL).

Several Dickcissels appeared at Regional feeders this spring, including singles at Annandale 10 Mar–24 Apr (M. Collins et al.), Sykesville, *Carroll*, 29 Mar–12 Apr (A. Hoffman, MLH), and Oxon Hill Children's Farm, *Prince George's*, 8 Apr (F. Schaffer). Were these wintering birds or extremely early overshoot migrants? A second push represented nomadic breeders that formed the forefront of a massive invasion this summer (see the summer report). Typical invasions occur about once every three years, correspond with droughts in the Midwest, and are not noticed until early June, but this year the appearance was much earlier. The first appeared 9 May (LL) at Hog I., *Surry*, VA, followed in the next four days by reports from five other locations in both states. Most May reports were of birds at "traditional" locations such as the Frederick Valley, *Frederick*, Lucketts, *Loudoun*, VA, and Curles Neck Farm, VA, with others in Maryland in *Saint Mary's* and *Kent*; the only other Virginia report was from 27 May (CB) at Kiptopeke. All were in reasonable nesting habitat save for ones at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC, 14 May (B. Dobbins) and Kingman L., DC, 27 May (BC).

Only a few Red Crossbills were seen this spring: 5 were at Rigby's Folly, *Talbot*, 15 Mar (GLA); a female at Royal Oak, *Talbot*, 27 Apr (J. Crump); a male at Riverbend Park, *Fairfax*, 9 May (M. Smith); and 15 at Soldiers' Delight, *Baltimore*, 17 May, with several there 24 May as well (J.&C. McDaniel). Other rare feeder finches included the 2 White-winged Crossbills in Portsmouth, VA, through 9 Mar (S. Bolinaga) and a Common Redpoll in Parsonsburg, *Wicomico*, through 8 Mar (ELP). A Pine Siskin 14 May at Wilde L., *Howard* (H. Zeichner), was surprisingly late, as was a female Evening Grosbeak 7 May at Woodbridge, *Prince William*, VA (M. Rubaudo). A female *Euplectes* bishop, a certain escapee, was at the Huntley Meadows feeder 25 May+ (CF et al.) .

Undocumented rarities: A Fulvous Whistling-Duck 28–30 Mar at Chincoteague was submitted without details.

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The Region experienced relatively average temperatures this spring. Rainfall over most of the Region was slightly below normal, but the southern and central areas of Georgia were in the midst of a worsening drought. Hopefully the dry conditions did not negatively affect the migrating birds, although migration was generally perceived to be a little slower than usual. But there were some interesting birds found this spring. The *Pterodroma* petrels off North Carolina made news, Ruffs were big spring surprises in two states, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers caused much excitement, and there were several first-documented state records for Georgia!

Abbreviations: BRC (Bird Records Committee); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, *Clayton*, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); P.I. (Pea Island N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC); W.M.A. (Wildlife Management Area); W.T.P. (Wastewater Treatment Plant).

GREBES THROUGH SPOONBILL

Rare-in-spring Red-necked Grebes included 3 on L. Norman, NC, 10 Mar (TL), one at H.B.S.P. 25 Mar and 25 Apr (RC & CE et al., JP), and one near Garysburg, *Northampton*, NC, 30 Apr (RD, FE). The last reported wintering Eared Grebes were 3 at S.S.S. 5 Apr (SC). The pelagic waters off North Carolina's Outer Banks once again received thorough coverage during May. Seven Herald Petrels were found, including one off Hatteras 13 May (BVD) and the rest off both Hatteras and Manteo during late May (BP et al., MT et al.). Two Fea's Petrels were found, with singles off Hatteras 27 & 28 May (BP et al.). Three sightings of **Bermuda Petrel** were exceptional, with singles off Manteo 26 & 28 May (BP et al., MT et al.) and off Hatteras 27 May (BP et al.). Following a recent trend, this species can be expected to be almost annual in these waters. Black-capped Petrel numbers were average in North Carolina, but 5 off Georgetown, SC, 13 May (*fide* JP) provided the only report for that state. Shearwater numbers were about average this spring, except for Sooties, whose numbers were considerably down. The rare-but-regular Manx Shearwater was found off Hatteras, with one on 21 May, 2 on 28 May, and 4 on 29 May (BP et al.). The peak Leach's Storm-Petrel count was 45 off Hatteras 27 May (BP et al.), and 3 were good finds off Georgetown, SC, 13 May (*fide* JP). The peak Band-rumped Storm-Petrel total was 51 off Hatteras 27 May (BP et al.).

Unusual American White Pelican reports included one inland at L. Norman, NC, late March (*fide* TP) and an impressive count of 23 at S.S.S. 19 May (SC). The first Magnificent Frigatebird of the year was a female near Bogue Inlet, NC, 10 May (RR). American Bitterns were more widely reported than usual in Georgia this spring; one on Bodie Island, NC, 30 May (JL) was quite late, possibly being a rare local breeder. Long-legged waders were found as usual at scattered inland locations, and coastal colonies seemed to be doing well. Reports of note included 3 ad. Little Blue Herons at Greenview pond, *Wake*, NC, 24 Apr (JA), one Reddish Egret at Little St. Simons I., GA, 18 May (SH), and a Glossy Ibis at Greenview pond, NC, 24 May (JA). And finally, a Roseate Spoonbill provided a rare occurrence at P.I. 25–31 May (AZ, v.o.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

The *Madison*, GA, Ross's Goose has now been present for over a year (*fide* TM) and the wintering individual in *Forsyth*, NC, was last seen 1 May (RS et al.). The two male Eurasian Wigeons wintering at Greenfield L., Wilmington, NC, were gone by mid-March (*fide* GM); the male at P.I. was last seen 2 Apr (RD). Lingering waterfowl of note included a Lesser Scaup at S.S.S. 30 May (SC), a male Long-tailed Duck at Mt. Pleasant, SC, until 21 May (*fide* DF), and a Common Merganser at Jordan L., NC, 7 May (*fide* NB). Rare inland Surf Scoters included 3 at Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA, 11 Mar (CL et al.) and one at Roanoke Rapids L., NC, 30 Apr (RD). Always noteworthy in the Region, breeding Hooded Mergansers were found twice. Females with young were seen in *Jasper*, GA, 30 Apr (JFl) and *Irvin*, GA, 9 May (MH).

Swallow-tailed Kite reports from North Carolina totaled 4, with the earliest being one at Atlantic, *Carteret*, 23 Mar (*fide* JF). In North Carolina, more nesting locations of the increasing Mississippi Kite were found, including a new site at Howell Woods, *Johnston*, 5 May (*fide* MJ) and 2 new nests in the Laurinburg area during May (BG). Locally rare was the migrant Broad-winged Hawk at Roanoke I., NC, 10 May (JL). The Rough-legged Hawk that wintered at Alligator R. N.W.R., NC, was last seen 5 Mar (JW et al.). Unusual away from the mountains in Georgia, a Rough-legged was rare and extremely late at Rum Creek, *Monroe*, 1 May (*fide* TM). A Sandhill Crane flying n. at

Wassaw I., GA, 20 May (SC) was late and unusual for that area.

Rare in spring, single American Golden-Plovers were found at Super Sod, *Peach*, GA, 8–9 Apr. (BZ et al.) and S.S.S. 20–21 Apr (SC). An American Oystercatcher was a one-day visitor inland at Jordan L., NC, 15 Apr (DS, WC), adding to just a handful of inland records for that state. Upland Sandpiper reports were about average, with the best count being 18 in *Macon*, GA, 24 Apr (WCh). Unusual though were several late Uplands: one in n. *Greene*, GA, 6 May (PS, BB) and one at P.I. on the amazing date of 27 May (JL, KW). Georgia had the only Long-billed Curlews, with at least 4 at several coastal sites. Inland shorebirding was relatively uneventful this spring as far as peeps (Semipalmated, Western, Least, and White-rumped Sandpipers) were concerned. Only small numbers were found scattered in all three states. Other inland sandpiper reports of note included 3 Dunlins in *Aiken*, SC, 29 Apr (AW), single Stilt Sandpipers at Columbia, SC, 20 Apr (RC, CE) and in *Franklin*, NC, 17 May (RD), and at least 9 Long-billed Dowitchers still present from the winter at Macon, GA, 8 Apr (TI et al.). Calver had a count of 661 Stilt Sandpipers at S.S.S. 10 May, impressive even for that location. In what could be called an invasion(!), 3 **Ruffs** were found this spring, all males: at Bodie I. Lighthouse pond, NC, 1–5 Apr (G&KS, KW, v.o.), Santee Coastal Reserve, SC, 8–10 Apr (KA, v.o.), and S.S.S. 10 May (SC et al.). A Common Snipe was very late at P.I. 27 May (KW). The only Wilson's Phalaropes were 3 at South Pond, P.I., 31 May (P. Moore et al.). Red-necked Phalaropes made rare on-land appearances, with singles at South Pond, P.I., 26 May (RD) and 30 May (JL, KW), and at S.S.S. 19 May (SC).

Noteworthy coastal jaegers included a Pomarine and an amazing count of 9–10 Parasitics just off Sapelo I., GA, 18 Mar (BBe), and another Pomarine near Jekyll I., GA, 31 Mar (BW). One Long-tailed Jaeger off Manteo, NC, 26 May (BP et al.) was the only reported from that state. In South Carolina, where there are only a couple of previous reports, one was off Murrell's Inlet 5 May (JP). The only Little Gull report received was of 2 at Atlantic Beach, NC, 14 Mar (JF). Rare spring white-winged gulls included an imm. Iceland at Manteo, NC, 30 Apr–2 May (LC, JL) and single imm. Glaucous Gulls continuing from the winter at the *Horry*, SC, landfill 4 Mar (*fide* TP) and Jekyll I., GA, 24 Apr (GB et al.). Roseate Terns are noteworthy at any time in the Region and the Cape Hatteras area is often considered the best location to find one. The 7 adults found there 6 May (BP) was an excellent count even for that area! Rare onshore, a first-year Arctic Tern was a surprise on the beach at Cape Hatteras 6 May (BP). Offshore numbers of this species were down again, with most pelagic trips finding only 1–3 during late May (BP et al, MT et al.). Bridled Tern numbers were unimpressive off North Carolina, but two off Georgetown, SC, 13 May (*fide* JP) provided a good report for that state. Sooty Terns, on the other hand, were present in better-than-usual numbers for the spring off North Carolina, with the best total being 32 off Hatteras 28 May (BP et al.). Ten off Georgetown, SC, 13 May (*fide* JP) provided a good count for that state. The only onshore sighting was of one at Cedar I., NC, 10 May (JF et al.).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

White-winged Doves continued in be found in North Carolina. Apart from the usual Beaufort site, singles were at a feeder in Wilmington for several days in early May (KK, GM, v.o.) and near the Bodie I. Lighthouse 29 May (RD). Black-billed Cuckoo reports were about normal, with individuals at Gardendale, *Lexington*, SC, 28 Apr (RC), at Ft. Jackson, *Richland*, SC, 2 May (LG), near Scotland Neck, NC, 21 May (RD), and near Havelock, NC, 28 May (JF). Rarely found in the Region, a Long-eared Owl was picked up injured in *Lincoln*, NC, in late March and taken to the Carolina Raptor Center (*fide* TP). Georgia's 2nd **Calliope Hummingbird**, still present from the winter in *Fayette*, was last seen in mid-March (*fide* TM); South Carolina's first, also from the winter, remained in Greer until 15 Apr (*fide* SCb). The always noteworthy Olive-sided Flycatcher was found only twice, at Mason Farm, Chapel Hill, NC, 14 May (WC) and the NC Zoo in Asheboro, 20 May (DSw). A wood-pewee was seen in *Grady*, GA, on the very early date of 26 Mar (JS, AS). The bird did not vocalize but was assumed to be an Eastern. Locally good *Empidonax* flycatcher reports included a Willow in *Aiken*, SC, 28 Apr (AW) and an Alder in *Glynn*, GA, 10 May (GK). Another species that staged a near-invasion was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Singles were near Rome, GA, 11 Apr (*fide* SS), Salisbury, NC, 19 May (*fide* TP), and in *Emanuel*, GA, 29 May (*fide* JH). Of particular note though was the pair near McDonough, *Henry*, GA, 4 May, building a nest that was occupied by mid-month (TS et al., m.ob.)! Although not the first nesting attempt by this species in the state, it is still quite rare and unusual.

Another bird that provided a first documented record for Georgia was the **Bell's Vireo** found singing in a willow thicket near Oxbow Meadows, Columbus, GA, 26–29 Apr (WCh, v.o.). There were a couple of previous undocumented sight reports for the state, and pending acceptance of the photos by the Georgia BRC, the species will be added to the official state list. Other vireo news included up to 3 Warblings present at a w. *Orange*, NC, farm 27 Apr+ (DS, v.o.); breeding this far e. would be quite unusual. The only Philadelphia Vireo reported was from Kennessaw Park marsh, GA, 6 May (GB et al.). A singing **Black-whiskered Vireo** was at Cape Lookout, NC, 20 May (JF et al.), not far from the location where one was found in 1994! This bird represented the state's 5th report, all spring coastal migrants. Unusual was the Common Raven found near Landrum, SC, 23 Apr (RC, CE) at the rather low elevation of 1500 feet. Also unusual were a lingering Red-breasted Nuthatch at Roanoke I., NC, 31 May (*fide* JL) and a late Brown Creeper at Chapel Hill, NC, 14 May (*fide* WC). Thrushes were once again reported in generally small numbers. Interesting was the banding of a Veery in Fernbank Forest, Decatur, GA, 25 May (GSc), in the same area where a female with a brood patch was banded several years ago. Other late thrushes included a Gray-cheeked and a Swainson's at Bodie I., NC, 31 May–1 Jun (JL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The warbler migration seemed to be poorer than normal this spring, with just a few exceptions. Several interesting sightings included a Nashville (probably a wintering bird) in *Baker*, GA, 31 Mar (RT), a Nashville near Wilmington, NC, 13 May (GM), a Chestnut-sided at Cape Lookout, NC, 29 May (JF), an early Black-throated Green in *Bibb*, GA, 10 Mar (PJ), a Bay-breasted on Wassaw I., GA, 20 May (SC), a (lost!) singing Prothonotary along NC 12 across from Bodie I. Lighthouse, NC, 26 May (RD), a Mourning offshore of Hatteras in late May (BP et al.), and a late Canada at Bodie I., NC, 29 May (RD). The warbler of the season however was the male **Townsend's Warbler** found on Roanoke I., NC, 27 Apr (JL). Present for just one day, the bird provided about the 4th report for North Carolina. Another western bird, the Western Tanager, was found twice. A molting male was discovered in an Athens, GA, yard 8 Apr (ET), and a male in alternate

plumage was a surprise at Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (BH, WF). Georgia had another state first when a **Spotted Towhee** was present in a Marietta yard 18–22 Apr (R&NCo, v.o.). Photos should add this species to the official state list, pending acceptance by the Georgia BRC.

Rare in spring, Clay-colored Sparrows were found twice on 30 Apr, at Cape Lookout, NC (ph. BC), and heard singing in *Jasper*, GA (JFl). Henslow's Sparrows of note included singles at Ft. Stewart, GA, 22 Mar (LCa), Santee N.W.R., SC, in mid-April (TK), and *Stewart*, GA, 3 Apr (NK). The large number of wintering Le Conte's Sparrows found in all three states continued into the spring. The latest departure dates reported included 3–4 in *Mecklenburg*, NC, 15 Apr (TP et al.) and 2 at Broad R. W.M.A., SC, 30 Apr (TK at al.). Other Le Conte's of note involved singles at Raven Rock S.P., NC, 24 Mar (PH) and along Mid-Pines Rd., Raleigh, NC, 17 Apr (JM). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow on St. Catherine's I., GA, 19 May (MHo, TSc) was possibly the latest ever for that state. Four Lincoln's Sparrows were reported in the Region, the latest in n. *Greene*, GA, 22 Apr (PS). The sparrow of the season had to be the ad. **Harris's Sparrow** at Cape Lookout, NC, 24 Apr (BH, WF), for the 4th or 5th report for that state.

Rare away from the immediate coast in North Carolina, an ad. male Painted Bunting was a surprise at a feeder near Falls L., *Wake*, NC, 29 May (*fide* MP). Dickcissels were found at several locations throughout the Region, indicating a better-than-average movement in the east. The best counts included up to 4 at the usual *Henry*, GA, site 7 May and 4 in *Carroll*, GA, 14 May (MB et al.). An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird at a Morehead City, NC, feeder 2–11 Apr (MW, JF et al.), provided the only report for the spring. Shiny Cowbird reports seem to be increasing each year now. Apart from several in Georgia and South Carolina, North Carolina sightings included 2 at N. Topsail I. 14 May (JC) and one near Bodie I. Lighthouse 26 & 29 May (JL, RD). Red Crossbills continued to be found at Pine Log W.M.A., *Bartow*, GA, with 4 there 24 Apr (GB et al.). This area hosted a rather large number of crossbills during the winter. And finally, the latest Evening Grosbeaks reported involved a flock of 9 on North Carolina's Outer Banks(!) at Salvo 29 Apr (SR).

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florida

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Once again the Region was crippled by severe drought, the worst on record in some areas. Mean rainfall amounts for January through May compared with the first five months of 2000 (all measurements in inches) for selected cities follow: Tallahassee—25.03 and 8.44; Tampa—12.17 and 3.12; and Miami—15.51 and 10.74. The effects of the drought were most severe in central Florida, where aquifers supply most of the water for human consumption and where many lakes are rainfall-fed. Consequently, hundreds or thousands of shallow wetlands dried up completely and lakes were much reduced. Decreased water levels attracted concentrations of wading birds and shorebirds, especially at Newnans L., which recorded its lowest water level in over 60 years. Other impressive shorebird counts came from L. Hollingsworth in Lakeland and L. Jackson at Tallahassee. Fortunately, rainfall in June and July broke

the drought and surface water is returning to most areas.

Strong w. winds for many days in late April caused fallouts of birds virtually Regionwide. Wally George was astounded by the hundreds of wood-warblers per hour that moved through Birch S.P. in Ft. Lauderdale during 22–26 Apr. Primary species involved were Northern Parulas, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats. John Boyd watched a similar spectacle of Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and Blackpoll Warblers, American Redstarts, and Common Yellowthroats streaming through Cape Florida near Miami 30 Apr; he estimated at least 1000 wood-warblers/hour for close to four hours. At Fort De Soto C.P., migrants were common 22–27 April, with 25 species of wood-warblers 25 Apr.

Abbreviations: D.T.N.P. (Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe*); F.D.C.P. (Fort De Soto County Park, *Pinellas*); L.A.R.A. (Lake Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange*); S.R.W.T.P. (Springhill Road W.T.P., *Leon*); and S.R.A. (state recreation area).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A Common Loon was inland at Gainesville 8 Mar (AKr), as were 4 at L. Arietta, *Polk*, 22 Mar (LAl). An Eared Grebe was at a *Polk* mine 1 Apr (PT, CGe, DM). A **Yellow-nosed Albatross** photographed 50 km w. of Tarpon Springs 1 May provided the Region's 3rd verifiable record (RPo, *fide* GW). Over 400 Audubon's Shearwaters were found between D.T.N.P. and Key West 21 Apr, including 300 in one flock (PaL et al.). At D.T.N.P., a White-tailed Tropicbird was seen 5–6 May (KR, KK et al.) and 45 Masked Boobies, including at least 3 chicks, were on Hospital Key in Apr (PaL et al.). A holdover from the winter were the hundreds of N. Gannets at F.D.C.P. 4 Mar (EH), with another at Passage Key, *Manatee*, 23 May (RPa, ASc). Nine American White Pelicans over Conch Key 26 Apr (PaL et al.) were unusual for the Keys. Brown Pelicans are now routine inland in parts of the cen. peninsula, but the 5 at Newnans L. 7–13 May (LD, RR et al.) were rare. A flock of 66 Anhingas was over Talbot I. S.P., *Duval*, 21 Apr (PLe). Also at Newnans L. were 2 Great White Herons 9 May+ and up to 8 Roseate Spoonbills 16 Apr+. Other spoonbills were 29 inland at *Polk* mines 23 Mar (PF et al.). A mixed brood of Great Blue and Great White Herons was found at Bayshore Gardens, Bradenton, 20 Mar (RPa). High numbers of Wood Storks—courtesy of the drought—were 250 at L. Jackson 25 Apr (GM) and 390 at Micanopy, *Alachua*, 13 May (MMa). The escaped Greater Flamingo in Hillsborough Bay was seen 11 Mar and 29 May (RPa, ASc).

Waterfowl at L.A.R.A. included 676 Green-winged Teal 3 Mar and an American Black Duck, 2 Blue-winged Teal, and a Northern Shoveler through the season (HR). A **White-faced Whistling-Duck** (*Dendrocygna viduata*) there 7 May (HR) was the 4th reported in Florida, all in the past 10 years. This native of Tropical America and Africa was more likely an escapee—nearly every theme park and zoo in the Region has one or more—but who knows? Of unquestioned exotic origin was the Philippine Duck (*Anas luzonica*) photographed at Pembroke Pines in late May or early Jun (K&KS) and apparently seen sometime in Apr (LM). Two Mottled Ducks were far n. at St. Marks N.W.R. 10 Mar (TCu). Newnans L. had 9 Blue-winged Teal 27 May (LD, RR). At Port Canaveral, 2 Common Eiders remained through spring (v.o.), while a female Long-tailed Duck was nearby at Titusville 13 Apr (TF).

Insular Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from F.D.C.P. 22 Mar (A&TM et al.) and 9 Apr (KH), and D.T.N.P. 18 Apr (PaL et al.). Two pairs of White-tailed Kites attempted to nest at Buck I. Ranch, *Highlands*, in Mar, but a prescribed fire deterred one pair and the other abandoned their nest in late Mar, probably due to the drought (MMc). Fate was not indicated for a nest at Three Lakes W.M.A., *Osceola*, (TD). A Mississippi Kite spent the season at Jacksonville (JCo), where nesting has been suspected in previous years. Ad. Bald Eagles in the Lower Keys were at Key West 26 Apr (PaL et al.) and Boca Chica Key 12 May (GS, CRe). Raptor watches at Talbot I. S.P. 26 Mar–25 Apr yielded seasonal counts of 63 Northern Harriers, 123 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 279 American Kestrels, and 171 Merlins, with 83 of the last 21 Apr (PLe). At L.A.R.A., two of Florida's first three documented **Rough-legged Hawks** were seen to 19 Apr and 4 Northern Harriers and a Sharp-shinned Hawk remained through the season (HR et al.). Cooper's Hawks again nested in the middle of St. Petersburg, at Boyd Hill Nature Park (*fide* RS), while one at D.T.N.P. 18–22 Apr was a rarity there (PaL et al.). A female Cooper's seen persistently at Jupiter Inlet, *Palm Beach*, 25 May–20 Jun (J&LH) was s. of the known breeding range. Short-tailed Hawks were reported widely in the central peninsula (v.o.), with the northernmost report of one at Cedar Key 16 Apr (CGr). A pair courting over Crews L. C.P., *Pasco*, 28 Mar (DR) was in an area of suitable habitat but no previous breeding-season reports. A Merlin at Newnans L. 29 May (MMa) was late. Black Rails at a phosphate mine 1 Mar (TJC) and 2 at Kicco W.M.A. 21 Apr (PF, TJC) were the first known for *Polk*. An American Coot swimming on the ocean ±40 km wsw. of Key West 21 Apr (PaL et al.) must have been an interesting sight. For the first time, released Whooping Cranes in Florida produced young, but one chick was lost quickly, and the other was killed by a Bobcat just days before gaining flight (SN; see paper in this issue).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH LARIDS

The drought created shorebird habitat at a number of inland sites this spring. Nowhere was this more apparent or impressive than at Newnans L., where 26 species were found, equaling the entire *Alachua* shorebird list for the previous 113 years! Some of the highlights follow: 100 Semipalmated Plovers 29 Apr, 35 Spotted Sandpipers 18 May, 15 Whimbrels 26 Apr, 6 Sanderlings 17 May, 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers 27 May, 600 Least Sandpipers 23 Apr, 31 White-rumped Sandpipers 29 Apr, 60 Dunlins 4 Mar, Ruff to 10 Mar, 130 Long-billed Dowitchers 23 Apr, Wilson's Phalarope 17 May, and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes 7–17 May (LD, JH, AKe, AKr, MMa, RR et al.). A good inland count of 75 Black-bellied Plovers was made at L.A.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). An American Golden-Plover was there 29 Apr (KR, CP), while another was at S.R.W.T.P. 27–28 Mar (G&SH). Good inland counts of Semipalmated Plovers were 19 at L. Jackson 25 Apr (GM) and 21 at L.A.R.A. 26 Apr (HR); the 395 at Talbot I. S.P. 3 May (RC) was an amazingly high count for the Region. Six Whimbrels and 3 pairs of Snowy Plovers at Anclote Keys 17 May (RPa, ASc et al.) provided excellent counts for *Pasco*. Locally rare shorebirds were an American Oystercatcher at D.T.N.P. 17 Apr (PaL et al.), 8 American Avocets at S.R.W.T.P. 5 Mar–21 Apr (GM et al.), a Whimbrel at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR), a Red Knot at L.A.R.A. 3 Apr (HR), and a Sanderling at East L. Tohopekaliga, *Osceola*, 6 May (LD). Upland Sandpipers were reported widely, with one at L.A.R.A. 21 Mar (HR), "three small flocks" at L. Jackson 4 Apr (FJ), 3 in n.-cen. *Pasco* 12 Apr (BP, SP), one at D.T.N.P. 14–20 Apr (CE et al.), and a leucistic individual in s.-cen. *Pasco* 19 May (ph. LW). Notable shorebirds at S.R.W.T.P. this spring were 20 White-rumped Sandpipers 25 Apr (DH), a Baird's Sandpiper 27 Apr (JCa), and a male Ruff 23 Mar–3 Apr (G&SH et al.). An impressive spring count of 1426 Stilt Sandpipers was made at L. Hollingsworth 21 Apr (B&LC).

Table 1. The eight most recorded landbirds from point count surveys (n = 87) at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R. 2–26 May 2000 (data provided by Terry Doyle, U.S.F.W.S.).

Species	Total Birds	Birds/Point	% of Points
Mangrove Cuckoo	64	0.74	51
Red-bellied Woodpecker	174	2.00	93
Pileated Woodpecker	57	0.66	54
Great Crested Flycatcher	44	0.51	39
White-eyed Vireo	154	1.77	80
Black-whiskered Vireo	103	1.18	64
Prairie Warbler	53	0.61	48
Northern Cardinal	123	1.14	82

Two Wilson's Phalaropes were at Black Hammock I., *Duval*, 13 May (RC) and one was at L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were near D.T.N.P. 23 Apr (PaL et al.) and L.A.R.A. 16 May (HR), and 2 were at Merritt I. N.W.R. 7 May (TR).

Two ad. Parasitic Jaegers were off Key West 24 Apr (PaL et al.). Rare gulls this spring were a Franklin's in *Okeechobee* 23 Apr (TP), a Little at Titusville 13 Apr (JM), a Black-headed at Newnans L. to 4 May (BSi, LD et al.), and a Great Black-backed at Tigertail Beach, Marco I., 15 Mar (KB). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Key West 7 Mar (JOn) was a great find. Gull-billed Terns were well-represented, including 28 at Four Corners mine, *Hillsborough/Polk*, 25 Apr (PF) and individuals at Jupiter Inlet 25 Apr (J&LH), Brandon 28 Apr (EK), Anclote, *Pasco*, 24 May (KT), and Newnans L. 27 May (RR, LD, MMa). Coastal terns at *Polk* mines were 12 Royals 1 Apr (PT, CGe, DM) and 9 Sandwiches 22 Apr (PT, CGe); another Royal was at Newnans L. 9 Apr–9 May (LD, JH et al.). An **Arctic Tern** found on Pompano Beach, *Broward*, 19 May later died (*fide* *WG). Jupiter Inlet hosted a Roseate Tern 1–2 May and a Sooty Tern 31 May (J&LH). Three Least Terns at Tallahassee 29 Mar (GM) were rather early. Last year, I reported that Black Noddies were absent from D.T.N.P. in spring 1999, but I recently heard that birds indeed were present (SBs). This year however, they did appear to be absent (WB, SBs et al.).

DOVES THROUGH MIMIDS

Continuing the trend in recent seasons, White-winged Doves were reported at nine widely scattered locations in the Region (v.o.). Individuals of the rapidly declining Smooth-billed Ani were reported from Bahia Honda S.P., *Monroe*, 16 Mar (G&JH) and in *Martin* 23 May (B&LC); a Groove-billed Ani was found at Ocklawaha, *Marion*, 23 Mar (ES, RL). Up to 2 West Indian Short-eared Owls were at D.T.N.P. 12 Apr–7 May (WB, PaL et al.) and a Lesser Nighthawk there 7 May (MP, KR et al.) was well-described. Wintering Black-chinned Hummingbirds departed Gainesville 10 Mar (DB) and Tallahassee 10 Mar (PC) and 19 Mar (JOM), while a "very fat" female visited a Key West feeder 8 Apr (JOn). Movements of woodpeckers were noted at three islands this spring, with single Red-headeds at Honeymoon I. 11 Apr (WY) and F.D.C.P. 15 Apr (*fide* RS), and a rare Hairy at Sanibel Lighthouse 2 Apr (VM).

A calling Eastern Wood-Pewee at Shady Hills, *Pasco*, 10 Mar (DR) was the earliest Florida report by two weeks, and 2 Acadian Flycatchers in *Wakulla* 1 Apr (JE) also were early. The wintering Least Flycatcher remained at F.D.C.P. to 11 Apr (RS, BA et al.) and the wintering Vermilion remained at Micanopy to 7 Mar (RR). Ash-throated Flycatchers at Emeralda Marsh, *Lake*, 3-11 Mar (ph. PM) and near L.A.R.A. 21 Mar (CRa, KR) probably also wintered, but the Great Crested Flycatcher in *Levy* 7 Mar (AKr) more likely was an early spring arrival. A wintering Brown-crested Flycatcher at Everglades N.P. was seen to 13 Mar (LM et al.). **La Sagra's Flycatchers** were at Birch S.P., *Broward*, 16 Apr (WG, SE et al.) and Key Largo 21 Apr (AB). A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at F.D.C.P. 16 Apr (SBc). At L.A.R.A., 33 Western Kingbirds were counted 3 Mar, the wintering **Cassin's Kingbird** remained to 26 Apr, and a Gray Kingbird was seen 6 Apr (HR). The count of 16 Gray Kingbirds at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR) seems surprisingly high. Thirteen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported in the Region (v.o.) and single **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** appeared simultaneously at two sites in the Keys: Boot Key 3 May (JG et al.) and D.T.N.P. 3–4 May (SBs et al.).

Six Yellow-throated Vireos were at Crystal R. 19 Mar (TR), 3 Red-eyed Vireos were early at San Felasco, *Alachua*, 12 Mar (MMa, AKe), and a Black-whiskered Vireo graced St. Marks N.W.R 23 Apr (D&JW). Cliff Swallows were surprisingly numerous (v.o.), with 8 reports, including one at S.R.W.T.P. 27 Mar (G&SH), 2 at Crews L. 28 Mar (DR), singles at Sanibel Lighthouse 4, 8, & 22 Apr (VM), F.D.C.P. 10 Apr (LAt), and L.A.R.A. 30 Apr (HR). Meanwhile, Cave Swallows were found at St. George I. 20 Mar (JCa), Tram Road W.T.P., *Leon*, 6 Apr (DH, GM), and D.T.N.P. 17–19 Apr (1) and 25 Apr (3) (PaL et al.). One of the D.T.N.P. swallows was described by Lehman as having a "fairly pale rusty-buff rump (close to that of a typical Cliff) and dull grayish-white sides."

Many of last year's sparrow fields at L.A.R.A. had succeeded to this year's wren fields, where Robinson tallied a **Bewick's Wren** 14 Mar, 41 Sedge Wrens 3 Apr, and 61 Marsh Wrens 15 Apr. Golden-crowned Kinglets at Manatee Springs S.P., *Levy*, 3 Mar (RH et al.) and Lower Suwannee N.W.R. 7 Mar (AKr) probably were holdovers from the winter irruption. An Eastern Bluebird was a surprise at F.D.C.P. 6 May (NO et al.). A possible **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported from Sugarloaf Key 26 Apr (PH) and another was identified at L.A.R.A. 27 May (HR). Fourteen Wood Thrushes were reported (v.o.), with one somewhat early at F.D.C.P. 23 Mar (LAt et al.), four singles in *Lee* 4 Apr–4 May (VM et al.) and 3 at Honeymoon I. S.R.A. 23 Apr (WY et al.). At F.D.C.P. 23 Apr, >100 Gray Catbirds were estimated (BP et al.). Single **Bahama Mockingbirds** were at D.T.N.P. 12 Apr (WB et al.) and Matheson Hammock, Miami, 12 May (LM et al., ph. A&TM). Perhaps equally rare were the Brown Thrashers at Key West 26–29 Mar (JOn) and D.T.N.P. 17–19 Apr (PaL et al.)

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

With so many warbler observations, this report must, by necessity, concentrate on clearly significant reports. A rarity at D.T.N.P. was the Orange-crowned found 17–19 Apr (PaL). Twelve Chestnut-sideds and 6 Bay-breasteds at Sanibel Lighthouse beginning 23 Apr (VM et al.) provided excellent spring counts. A Magnolia at Bartow 23 Mar (PF) was early and a Yellow-rumped in *Flagler* 21 May (AKr) was late. The **Townsend's Warbler** that wintered at Merritt I. N.W.R. was seen to 2 Apr (B&RK et al.). A bird believed to be a **Bay-breasted × Blackpoll Warbler** hybrid was observed carefully at D.T.N.P. 22 Apr (ph. PaL et al.). Multiple counts of Cerulean Warblers were 5 at F.D.C.P. 25 Apr (*fide* RS) and 2 at Sanibel Lighthouse 25–30 Apr (VM et al.). Quite early was a Worm-eating Warbler at F.D.C.P. 20 Mar (ASm). Migrant Swainson's Warblers were plentiful this spring, with 23 reported (v.o.); the best count was 8 at F.D.C.P. 12 Apr (LAt et al.). Eleven N. Waterthrushes were at

L.A.R.A. 26–30 Apr (HR). Kentucky Warblers also were numerous at F.D.C.P., with one early 28 Mar (LAt et al.), 10+ on 23 Apr (BP, LW, CD et al.), and 12+ on 25 Apr (EK et al.); one that remained at Key West 28 Mar–21 Apr (JOn) was equally early; 3 others were at Sanibel Lighthouse 25 Apr–2 May (CE, VM). Yellow-breasted Chats were well-reported, with 2 singing males at Crystal River (TR, A&BH et al.), 4 at Paynes Prairie State Preserve, *Alachua* 13 May (MMe et al.), and 19 singing at L.A.R.A. variously this spring (HR).

Muschlitz found a female Western Tanager at Cedar Key 22 Apr. Only the 5th reported in the Region, and a one-day wonder, was the **Yellow-faced Grassquit** at D.T.N.P. 9 May (KK et al.); an excellent description and sketch were provided. Three Lark Sparrows were reported: singles at Melbourne 24 Mar (LJ), F.D.C.P. 15 Apr (LH et al.), and D.T.N.P. 17–19 Apr (PaL et al.). A Savannah Sparrow at L.A.R.A. to 30 May (HR) set the Region's latest spring date. McMillian found Le Conte's Sparrows far s. at Buck I. Ranch on six occasions late Jan–early Mar, while Paul saw one near the Alafia R., *Hillsborough*, 24 Mar. Rounding out the sparrows were single Lincoln's at L.A.R.A. 14 Mar (HR) and Birch S.P. 27 Apr (WG), the latter a first for the park.

The fallout at F.D.C.P. 22–23 Apr brought down 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (RS, BP et al.) and "probably several hundred" Indigo Buntings (BH et al.). Part of the same fallout were 20 Blue Grosbeaks and 24 Indigo Buntings at Cedar Key 24 Apr (TR). Other Indigos at Monticello, *Jefferson*, 17 Mar (RA) and Gainesville 18 Mar (MMa) were early. Singing males tallied at L.A.R.A. this spring were 59 Blue Grosbeaks, 32 Indigo Buntings, and 9 Painted Buntings (HR). The w. winds of late Apr brought a number of Dickcissels to the Gulf coast, with ≤8 at S.R.W.T.P. 23 Apr–13 May (GM et al.) and singles at D.T.N.P. 20 Apr (CE et al.), at Sanibel Lighthouse 25–26 Apr (WW et al.), in mid-*Pinellas* 27 Apr (JF), at F.D.C.P. 28 Apr (PB, WY et al.), and at Bald Point, *Franklin*, 24 May (JD). Nearly all of these were males. At L.A.R.A., the site of last year's unprecedented breeding, Robinson counted 8 singing males and a female beginning 30 Apr, but none after 9 Jun. Also at L.A.R.A. were 3140 Bobolinks 30 Apr (HR), one of the Region's highest spring counts.

Ahern found a male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Tampa 6 Mar. Twenty-eight Shiny Cowbirds were reported this spring (v.o.), matching precisely the seasonal statewide mean since 1985 (BP). A Bronzed Cowbird at Panacea, *Wakulla*, 23 Apr (PC) was somewhat late. House Finches continue to colonize the peninsula at a slow pace. Rowan had a pair at Chiefland, *Levy*, 20 Apr and birds have been present nearby at Williston for "at least five years" (SL). Two singing males were at Ft. Lauderdale (WG, SE), where birds bred in 1997, but a local origin for these individuals cannot be ruled out. A Pine Siskin visited a Tallahassee feeder 18–19 May (BSc). At D.T.N.P., a female and a male House Sparrow were found 24 Apr–7 May (PaL, LM et al.); reports from the Tortugas are thought to represent birds that arrived naturally with migrant landbirds—but from where? Lastly, 3 Zebra Finches built a nest in a backyard in Bayonet Pt., *Pasco*, 27 Apr (ph. JW), the first known to nest in Florida.

Cited observers: Brian Ahern, Larry Albright (LAl), Roger Atchison, Lyn Atherton (LAt), Steve Backes (SBc), Sonny Bass (SBs), David Beatty, Ken Behrens, Wes Biggs, Adrian Binns, Paul Blair, John Boyd, Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Andy Cheadle, Roger Clark, T.J. Coburn (TJC), Julie Cocke (JCo), Paul Conover, Buck & Linda Cooper, Tom Curtis (TCu), Lloyd Davis, Tylan Dean, Carrie Dermer, Jack Dozier, John Epler, Susan Epps, Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Teresa Fiorella, Judy Fisher, Chuck Geanangel (CGe), Wally George, Jeff Gordon, Chuck Graham (CGr), Jack and Liz Hailman, George & Judy Halleron, Gary & Sandra Hampton, Erik Haney, Al & Bev Hansen, David Harder, John Hintermister, Petra Hockey, Tom Hoctor, Brett Hoffman, Kelly Holland, Larry Hopkins, Rich Hoyer, Fran James, Leslie Jaquays, Bill & Rose Karnofsky, Adam Kent (AKe), Katrina Knight, Andy Kratter (AKr), Ed Kwater, Ruth Langer, Patrick Leary (PLe), Paul Lehman (PaL), Steve Lowrimore, Mike Manetz (MMa), Larry Manfredi, Anya & Tom Mason, Peter May, Vince McGrath, Jason McManus, Mike McMillian (MMc), Doug McNair, Michael Meisenburg (MMe), Gail Menk, Barbara Muschlitz, Steve Nesbitt, Julie O'Malley (JOM), Nancy Ogden, Joe Ondrejko (JOn), Tom Palmer, Michael Patten, Rich Paul (RPa), Steve Peacock, Cheri Pierce, Robert Powell (RPo), Bill Pranty, Cindy Radamaker (CRa), Kurt Radamaker, Cathy Read (CRe), Don Robinson, Harry Robinson, Tommie Rogers, Rex Rowan, Earl Scales, Ann Schnapf (ASc), Kevin & Kim Schnitzius. Brenda Scott (BSc), Bob Simons (BSi), Austin Smith (ASm), Ron Smith, Gene Stoccardo, Eric Tillman, Pete Timmer, Ken Tracey, Jamie Wagner, Lee Walton, Walt Winton, Glen Woolfenden, Dick & Joanna Wright, Wilf Yusek.

Marsh Wren
by Terry O'Nele

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The millenium spring arrived early in Ontario. The record-breaking mild weather of February continued well into March, and most areas—even in the north—were generally snow-free by mid-March. Snow accumulations during the winter were rather light and disappeared quickly as the mild temperatures persisted. All of these conditions resulted in a great number of remarkable early records for returning spring migrants. Snow Geese arrived at Thunder Bay and Atikokan in the northwestern part of the province on February 26, nearly four weeks early! Observers, busy with a seemingly endless list of record-breaking early arrivals, still managed to turn up a good number of rare and unusual birds including Eared Grebe, Great Cormorant, Cinnamon Teal, Lewis's Woodpecker, Cave Swallow, and Painted Bunting, capping off a most interesting and exciting spring.

Abbreviations: Pt. Pelee (Point Pelee N.P. and vicinity), P.P. (Provincial Park), S.L. (Sewage Lagoons), KFN (Kingston Field Naturalists), C.A. (Conservation Area), W.M.A. (Wildlife Management Area), LPBO (Long Point Bird Observatory), OBRC (Ontario Bird Records Committee), N.P.H. (Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch), TCBO (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A single Red-throated Loon was found at Presqu'ile P.P., *Northumberland*, 24 Mar (CEG), a record-early spring date. Spring totals, however, were at an all-time low for Presqu'ile, suggesting that open water farther n. may have permitted most birds to fly over without stopping. Kingston, *Frontenac*, had a rare visit by another Red-throated 16 May (KFN). A Red-necked Grebe present 15–16 May off Hillman Marsh provided a rare spring record for Pt. Pelee. A pair on Kelley L., Sudbury (m.ob.), all of May indicated a possible breeding attempt. Additional individuals were noted at Pittock L., *Oxford*, 5 Apr (JMH) and 20 Apr (RSn), with another 4 at Killbear P.P., *Parry Sound*, 3 May (Jni). Three pairs began nesting in Bronte Harbour (*Halton*) in early March (GE). Sudbury observers were delighted to see an **Eared Grebe** on Kelley L. 6 May (m.ob.), the 2nd for the area. Single birds were also seen at the Forest S.L., *Lampton*, 21 May (AR, PC) and at the Grand Bend S.L., *Lampton*, 30 May (AR). American White Pelicans are increasing significantly on L. Nipigon, *Thunder Bay*. A flock of 250 was noted in early May (RS) on Wabinosh Bay. Farther e. 12 made an appearance at Gawas Bay, St. Joseph's I., *Algoma*, 14 May (BKn). An imm. **Great Cormorant** at Port Credit Harbour, *Peel*, 2 May (*fide* BM) was joined by an ad. 16 May (*fide* BM). The same birds may have moved eastward. An imm. was in the Toronto Harbour 18 Apr (CSAM) and an ad. was at Sunnyside, Toronto, 29 May (CSAM).

A record-early American Bittern was at Presqu'ile P.P. 31 Mar (CEG). Least Bittern reports were scarce, with 3 noted 12 May at the St. Clair W.M.A. (GC) and one at Big Creek, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 13 May (LPBO). Great Egrets were scattered across the s. part of the province and are apparently expanding slowly to the east. One turned up at Miller Creek C.A., *Northumberland*, 18 Apr (m.ob.) and additional singles were at Kingston, *Frontenac*, 23 Apr and 20 May (HM) and at Deseronto 15 May (DDg, CG). Snowy Egrets arrived *en masse* at Wheatley P.P. 16 May, when a remarkable 13 were counted. Two were at Hillman Marsh near Pt. Pelee 17–20 May (KAM et al.) and a single was noted at the Leslie Street Spit, Toronto, 7 May (GR, RBHS). Singles were also at Big Creek 13 May (m.ob.), Selkirk P.P. (JM), and Fifty Point C.A., *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 25 May (TJ). Single Cattle Egrets were found at Clear Creek, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 5 Apr (BC) and at the Nanticoke Generating Station 26–29 April (*fide* MS). Green Herons are rare in the n. part of the province, but one was found near Sudbury 31 May (CB) and another made an appearance at Ft. Frances, *Rainy River*, 7 May (RS). A record-early Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Port Hope, *Northumberland*, 7 Mar (DS). The Lindsay S.L., *Victoria*, hosted a **Glossy Ibis** 17 May (BS, m.ob.) that remained for several days. Black Vultures are now almost expected in the spring in s. Ontario. One was seen at Beamer C.A. near Grimsby, *Niagara*, 31 Mar (NPH). Another was at Sturgeon Creek 15–17 May and then at Pt. Pelee 17–21 May (Dmi et al.). Rondeau P.P. was visited by a single bird 26 May (PAW), the 2nd record for the park. Record-early Turkey Vultures

were noted 12 Mar (RFr, EK) when 4 floated over Hope Township, *Northumberland.*

Snow Geese moved n. early, with flocks arriving in nw. Ontario 26 Feb at Thunder Bay (NE) and Atikokan, *Rainy River* (DRE). Flocks continued to arrive or fly over through March. A blue-morph individual was noted at Taquanyah 2 May (BJ). Brant flights at Kingston were generally considered weak, with peaks of 100 on 4 May and 150 on 9 May (KFN). Tundra Swan numbers built to 10,000 in and around Pinery P.P. 18 Mar (A&MR). The following day only 550 could be found; the rest had moved on with the help of a se. wind. On 21 Mar, 24 Tundra Swans flew low over Wiarton, *Grey-Bruce* (JJ), while at the e. end of s. Ontario a peak count of 72 for the spring migration were noted at Wolf I., *Frontenac*, 11 Mar (J&BM). A Gadwall was found near Ft. Frances 22 May (RS), an unusual spring record. A pair near Southampton, *Grey-Bruce*, 22 & 30 May (JJ) were in suitable habitat and possibly breeding, a rare occurrence for the area. Two Eurasian Wigeons visited Robinson L. near Sudbury 17 May (*fide* JL). To the south, one was found 18 Mar (m.ob.) at Long Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, and a male was present 3–7 May at the Nonquan S.L. (MB). A male Blue-winged Teal at Pt. Pelee 2 Mar (AW) was record-early. Thunder Bay birders were pleasantly surprised when a male **Cinnamon Teal** was found 27 May (AH, RF). It remained in the area for several days and at one point was joined by a female-plumaged teal. As many as 3 Harliquin Ducks were at Darlington P.P., *Durham*, throughout the period (m.ob.). A pair was also seen regularly off Stoney Creek Lakeshore, *Hamilton-Wentworth.* Long-tailed Duck numbers peaked 17 Apr, with 150,000 recorded at Prince Edward Pt. (RTS). To the west, 40,000 were counted off Stoney Creek Lakeshore 23 Mar (RC,GS). Killarney on Georgian Bay had 600 on 18 Apr (JN) and 330 on 16 May (CB). A male Barrow's Goldeneye found at Toronto's Leslie Street Spit 5 Mar (*fide* JI) was later seen in close company with a female Common Goldeneye.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A **Swallow-tailed Kite** thrilled those lucky enough to see it at Pt. Pelee 6 & 10 May (DFa et al.) as it sailed the length of the park. A 2nd individual was seen over the Wilson Tract, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 17 May (JH). Two **Mississippi Kites** appeared in Pt. Pelee, an ad. 6 May (PJ et al.), a record-early date, and a first-year bird 8–15 May (DF, m.ob.). Another was seen over Port Royal, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 15 May (MC, DS). Bald Eagles continue to do well in nw. Ontario. An aerial survey of the Black Sturgeon area near Thunder Bay 6 & 7 Mar recorded 21 adults and all nests occupied (RSw). Red-shouldered Hawks also appear to be doing well in the Kingston area, where surveys recorded 32 birds 15 Apr and 23 on 30 Apr (JHE, RDW). To the north, 7 were noted on a survey route 4 May near Killbear P.P. and one was found at Burwash near Sudbury 27 Apr (Jni). A Swainson's Hawk flew over Beamer C.A. 27 Apr (N.P.H.); the same area recorded a total of 11 Golden Eagles during March and April. Peregrine Falcons returned to most of their s. Ontario urban nesting sites. An early migrant was seen 28 Mar (JMH) near W. Woodstock, *Oxford.* To the north a large female was noted in a cutover near Atikokan, *Rainy River*, 20 May (DHE).

Spruce Grouse have become quite rare in the North Bay, *Nipissing*, area; thus, a pair found near S. River 5 May (RT) was significant. A Northern Bobwhite was found 24 Apr (DD) in Windham Township, *Haldimand-Norfolk.* Yellow Rails were found at Prince Edward Pt. 21 May (KFN) and one was flushed in the Crown Marsh at the base of Long Point 17 May (DT, LB). The season's only King Rail was at Hillman Marsh near Pt. Pelee 16 May (JRC et al.). Sandhill Cranes continue to increase in s. Ontario. Pt. Pelee had several records during the period; a pair at Rondeau P.P. was presumed nesting. Several pairs also returned to nest in the Peterborough area (*fide* DS) and single migrants were noted 1 Apr at Komoka, *Middlesex* (PRe), and at Algonquin P.P. 15 Apr (RT).

Ten nicely plumaged American Avocets visited Hillman Marsh 14 May (AJ et al.). Others were at Rondeau P.P. 22 May (SC, KJB) and Selkirk P.P., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 7 May (SW). Willets passed through Pt. Pelee in good numbers, with a maximum of 9 at Wheatley Harbour 12 May (WGL et al.). To the east one was on Amherst I., *Addington*, 16 May (MV, GFV) and one visited Mission I. at Thunder Bay 17 May (NE). A Spotted Sandpiper arrived a record four days early at Pittock L., *Oxford*, 11 Apr (JMH). Two Hudsonian Godwits were at Hillman Marsh 13–16 May (JB et al.) and may have moved to Kingsville, *Essex*, 18 May (RZD). Thunder Bay had one 26 May (GH, DM). An impressive and unusual flock of 25 Marbled Godwits flew over Mission I. at Thunder Bay 21 May (BM, PR). Western Sanpipers are rare spring visitors to the province. One 20 May on Amherst I. (VPM) provided only the 3rd spring record for the Kingston area; another was at Hillman Marsh 29 Apr (GTH). Stilt Sandpipers, also rare in spring, appeared individually at Hillman Marsh 13 May (AGC) and 27 May at the Long Point causeway (DT). Ruffs appeared in two locations: a female 5–6 May at the Blenheim S.L., *Chatham-Kent* (KJB et al.), and a male 3 May at the Nonquon S.L. (SD). On 18 May birders visiting the Powasson S.L., *Parry Sound*, found a female Wilson's Phalarope. A female Red-necked Phalarope was at the same site 20 May (RT); both species are unusual for the area. Another female Red-necked was at the Tavistock S.L., *Oxford*, 16–19 May (JMH).

SA Low water levels in the Great Lakes created excellent shorebird habitat and provided birders with a great opportunity to see and study large concentrations of shorebirds. The following records are from the Pt. Pelee area and are an example of the high numbers of birds seen: 675 Black-bellied Plovers 13 May (and 620 on 15 May); 49 Semipalmated Plovers 7 May; 96 Lesser Yellowlegs 7 May; 9 Solitary Sandpipers 7 May; 35 Red Knots 16 May; 260 Least Sandpipers 7 May; 6 White-rumped Sandpipers 16 May; 1200 Dunlins 20 May; 65 Pectoral Sandpipers 7 May; and 300 Short-billed Dowitchers 15 May (JI *fide* AW).

GULLS THROUGH CROWS

Toronto's amazing **Heermann's Gull** was present throughout the period. It apparently wandered to Hamilton 6 Mar (RZD) and to Bronte Harbour 16 Apr (MJ). Several Laughing Gulls reached s. Ontario in the latter part of May. An adult was at the tip of Pt. Pelee 21 May (BCh) and another or the same was at Wheatley Harbour 26 May (DM). Erieau, *Kent*, had one 19–20 May (SC et al.) and a sub-adult was at Turkey Point, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 25–26 May (RR, SW). Manitoulin I. hosted its 3rd Franklin's Gull, one at the Gore Bay S.L. 29–30 Apr (CB, TL). Pt. Pelee had an ad. 11–17 May (RT), with another ad. at nearby Hillman Marsh 26–27 May (AHR). Two imm. Little Gulls were at Turkey Point 26 May 26 (RR, IR), one was at Amherst I. 17 Apr (RKE, FKE), and 2 adults and 2 first-alternate birds were at Rondeau P.P. throughout May (m.ob.). The season's only Black-headed Gull was at Hillman Marsh 21 May (KAM). On 12 May, 25 Bonaparte's Gulls were found near Atikokan (DRE), where they are rare spring migrants.

A first-alternate Iceland Gull spent the period at Rondeau P.P. and another was at Cobourg at the rather late date of 25 May (CEG). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were widespread, with 2 at the Azilda Landfill 29–30 Apr, a first record for the Sudbury area (BB, JL), and another at Gore Bay 16 Apr, only the second record for Manitoulin I. (CB, TL et al.). An ad. and a first-alternate imm. were at Rondeau P.P. throughout the period (m.obs.). Cobourg had 2 on 2 Mar, a single 10 Apr, with another 6 Apr at Presqu'ile P.P. (CEG). Sudbury had a late Glaucous Gull at the Azilda Landfill 5 May (RM). Common Terns returned early to Toronto's Leslie Street Spit, where 22 appeared 15 Apr (GC). A remarkable 5500 were counted on the tip of Pt. Pelee 15 May 15 (AW et al.) Arctic Terns were noted at Amherst I., with 2 on 27 May (JHE et al.) and another at the La Salle Marina in Hamilton Harbour 27–28 May (KAM).

Northern Hawk Owls appeared in the Thunder Bay area, with singles noted 11 Mar (PR, BM) and 7 Apr (AH). Great Gray Owls appeared suddenly across the nw. part of the province after a general absence through the winter. Birds were noted at Rainy River, Fort Frances, Atikokan, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, and Nipigon during the period, indicating a significant movement. Single Chuck-wills-widows called briefly at Wheatley P.P. 11 May (RT et al.) and 14 May at Pt. Pelee (MT et al.). Whip-poor-wills seem to have declined significantly in the central part of the province. Calling birds at Eau Claire, *Nipissing* (RT), and at Parry Sound 19 Apr (JN) were reported as welcome returnees. One of the best birds of the season was a **Lewis's Woodpecker** that visited a Hilliardton, *Timiskaming*, feeder 17–19 May (*fide* BM). The TCBO had the only Western Kingbird of the season, on 18 May. A well-documented **Cave Swallow** 18–19 May at Pittock Lake (JMH et al.) was definitely one of the season's highlights. The report has been sent to the OBRC and is of interest relative to the species' invasion last fall. **Fish Crows** again reached Ontario, with one at Rondeau P.P. 15 & 20 May (SC, JTB et al.) and another at the tip of Pt. Pelee 16 May (MM et al.). The southward expansion of Common Raven continued, with birds apparently breeding in the Emily Forest Tract, *Peterborough*, 5 Apr (DS, BL) and along the Indian River Gorge near Warsaw (GD).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

A Mountain Bluebird wintering at Fisher's Glen was last seen 27 Mar (HMc). Another was found near Ft. Frances 16 Apr (RS). The Varied Thrush wintering at Thunder Bay was still present 21 Mar (JA). Northern Mockingbirds continued to expand into the Toronto area, taking advantage of habitat along railway and hydro rights-of-way. Highlighting the many reports were 7 birds, 2 singing, 23 Apr at Colonel Samuel Smith Park (SH). Wintering Bohemian Waxwings had left s. Ontario by mid-April. A lingering flock of 50 was noted in Peterborough 25 Apr (HD). A male **Townsend's Warbler** at Thickson's Woods, *Durham*, 20–23 Apr thrilled the many observers who braved cool and rainy weather to see it. Single Yellow-throated Warblers were at Pt. Pelee 14 Apr (FJU) and 22 May (GB). A Prothonotary Warbler, rare for the Port Hope area, was found 13 May (SM, AT). Worm-eating Warblers were found at Prince Edward Pt. 18 May (RTS) and Rondeau P.P. 20 May (JTB), while a reliable singing one was near St. Williams, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 17–30 May (CF).

Lark Sparrows appeared across n. Ontario: 2 at a Dryden feeder 2 May (Bd, CE), one at Mountain Chutes Camp, *Timiskaming*, 7 May (BK), and one at TCBO 13 May. A pair of Northern Cardinals appeared to be getting ready to breed in Atikokan in mid-May, likely holdovers from the incursion into nw. Ontario in late fall 1999. Both birds suddenly disappeared (DHE). And imagine glancing out at your feeder and seeing a bird of almost unbelievable colouring. This is what happened in Dryden, *Kenora*, where a male **Painted Bunting** appeared 10 May; it stayed only one day (B&DB). A Yellow-headed Blackbird, rare in ne. Ontario, was at New Liskeard, *Timiskaming*, 18 May (*fide* BM). Common Redpolls lingered in n. Ontario well into April. Many observers noted sick birds at feeders and a form of salmonella was suspected (DHE).

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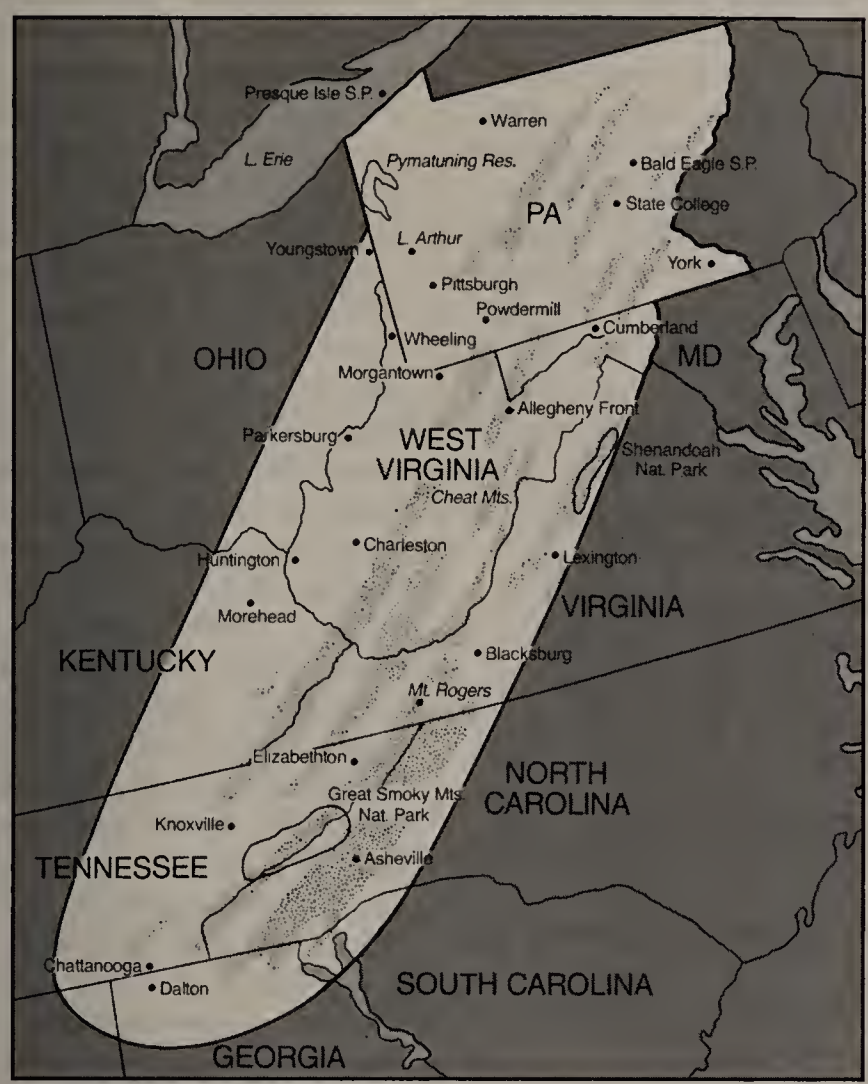

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Early March was warmer than usual and, even in the north, most large bodies of waters were ice-free, providing numerous resting areas for migrating waterfowl. By mid-month, for example, 35,000 diving ducks, mostly Canvasbacks and Greater and Lesser Scaup, had gathered on Presque Isle Bay, Erie. This warm spell allowed a few of the normally early landbird migrants, such as Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, and Fox Sparrow, to arrive even earlier than usual. Then, with the return of cold weather later in March, most migrants returned to near-normal schedules. In the Pittsburgh region, Paul Hess observed no substantial flights of migrating passerines before the strong warm front of 2 May. Just a few days later, however, it appeared as though most breeding birds in that area were on territory and in normal numbers. Most birders, especially in the southern Appalachians, considered the second half of May duller than usual for migrants, with many northern vireos, flycatchers, and warblers apparently over-flying the Region.

Abbreviations: F.B.R.V. (French Broad River Valley, *Henderson*, NC); M.L.W.A. (Mosquito Lake Wildlife Area, *Trumbull*, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., *Erie*, PA); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, *Westmoreland*, PA); S.H.L. (South Holston L., *Henderson*, TN).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

There was a better-than-usual flight of Red-throated Loons across w. Pennsylvania, with a dozen reports 11 Mar–23 May; a fall-out 8 Apr included singles on Somerset, Conneaut, and Kahle Lakes, as well as L. Arthur (v.o.). Good numbers of migrating Common Loons were observed throughout the Region, including 40 at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC, 20 Mar (WF), 60 on Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, 3 Apr (JS), and 70 flying past Soddy Mt. hawkwatch in e. TN 11 Apr (WH). Horned Grebes were widely reported in March, with 199 on Conneaut L., PA, 11 Mar (RFL), and 2,000 at P.I.S.P. 12 Mar (JM). A total of 17 Red-necked Grebes was reported 20–30 Apr, distributed over eight w. Pennsylvania lakes from *Somerset* to *Erie* (v.o.). The last of several wintering Eared Grebes at S.H.L. was seen 18 Apr (HPL). Double-crested Cormorant numbers generally were lower than during the previous spring, but in Pennsylvania as many as 26 were on the Allegheny R. at Starbrick, *Warren*, 3 Apr (TG), with 36 in w. *Crawford* 22 Apr (RFL) and 71 on L. Somerset 22 Apr (AM, JRP).

During the second half of April there was a good flight of American Bitterns; reports from 15 localities included 4 birds at Brainerd Levee, *Hamilton*, TN, 17 & 28 Apr (KC) and numerous records from P.I.S.P. (JM). A Least Bittern was at Brainerd Levee 13 Apr (KC), 2 were at Grand River W.M.A., *Trumbull*, OH, 30 May (CPA), and several records came from P.I.S.P. 6–28 May (JM). A high count of 19 Great Egrets came from Elizabethton, TN, 30 Mar (GWa). In the north, early birds were at Sandy Creek Marsh, *Wood*, WV, 1 Apr (DE), Kahle L., PA, 2–3 Apr (JS), with 3 at Youngsville, *Warren*, PA, 3 Apr (*fide* TG). A Snowy Egret was at Austin Springs, TN, 17 Apr (HPL), and 2 were in *Hamilton*, TN, 21 May (HS); in Pennsylvania, singles were at P.I.S.P. 12 May (JS, DS) and 20–22 May (JM). A Tricolored Heron at P.I.S.P. 14–27 May was joined by a second bird 28 May (JTC). An early Green Heron was at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, 26 Mar (IF). Cattle Egret sightings included one at Brainerd Levee 7 Apr (DP), 2 at L. Julian, NC, 8 Apr (WF, MW), and one at Pymatuning L., PA, 27 May (RFL, JH). Two early Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Kiwanus L., *York*, PA, 27 Mar (RE), one was at Jackson Park, *Henderson*, NC, 29 Apr (WF, RLS), and 2 were at Kendall Recreation Area, *Clinton*, KY, 9 May (FR). Black Vultures continue to extend their range westward beyond the Allegheny Front in sw. Pennsylvania; 6 were at Berlin, *Somerset*, 24 Mar, and there were several reports from nearby Mt. Davis (JRP).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

The only Ross's Goose report was from Saltsburg, *Indiana*, PA, 3 Mar–13 May (MAD). Mute Swans, now regular in nw. Pennsylvania, were at Starbrick (TG), Tamarack L., Meadville (RFL), and P.I.S.P.(JM); in *Trumbull*, OH, a pair frequented Shenango W.A. (DJH). The Tundra Swan migration peaked in w. Pennsylvania the first week of Mar, with

175 at Hartstown, *Crawford*, 1 Mar (MB), 153 at the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, *Somerset*, 4 Mar (MM), and 390 in *Venango*, 6 Mar (JS). At Pymatuning L., PA, American Wigeon numbers peaked at 697 on 19 Apr (RFL) and 2 late birds were at Swoope, *Augusta*, VA, 14 May (YL). A flock of 10 Blue-winged Teal was early at Brainerd Levee, TN, 11 Mar (JC) and at F.B.R.V. numbers peaked at 75 on 9 Apr (WF, MW). An exceptionally heavy fallout of 2250 Northern Pintails occurred at Tamarack L. 8 Apr (RFL), while 43 Northern Shovelers were at M.L.W.A. 5 Apr (DJH). There were 320 Ring-necked Ducks at Grand River W.A., OH, 14–15 Mar (CB); 950 at Conneaut L., PA, 19 Apr (RFL); and a lingering bird was at Fisherville, VA, 20 May (YL). Among a half-dozen records of Surf Scoter from w. Pennsylvania were reports of 3 at Woodcock L., *Crawford*, 26 Apr (LC), and a late bird on Kahle L. 10–13 May (JS). On 30 Apr, 2 Black Scoters were at Two Mile Run Park, *Venango*, PA (JS) and 2 were at Keystone Res., *Indiana*, PA (MRH). Long-tailed Ducks put down in w. Pennsylvania in small numbers; highest count among six reports, was of just 27 at Starbrick 27 Apr (TG). At Pymatuning, Buffleheads peaked at 925 on 8 Apr; there were 250 Hooded Mergansers there 11 Mar and 500 Red-breasted Mergansers 2 Apr (RFL). There were 900 Ruddy Ducks at Pymatuning 8 Apr (RFL), 500 at L. Latonka, Mercer, PA, 13 Apr (NT), and 500 at Kahle L. 22 Apr (JS).

Early Ospreys appeared in *Wood*, WV, 3 Mar (*fide* JE), and Venango Township, *Erie*, PA, 5 Mar (LD). According to Pennsylvania Game Commission personnel (BP), there were 8 active nests in *Mercer* and 2 in *Butler*. Bald Eagles continue to thrive in nw. Pennsylvania, with 18 active nests and 25 live eaglets as of 5 Jun (BP). Following their heavy winter invasion in the n. Appalachians, a return migration of Northern Goshawks continued in w. Pennsylvania through the third week of Apr and a late bird was in *Huntingdon*, PA, 25 May (GG). Red-shouldered Hawks were widely reported, with a high count of 18 at the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, *Somerset*, PA, 4 Apr (MM). The last wintering Rough-legged Hawk at Shady Valley, TN, was seen 29 Mar (HPL, AW), and a late migrant was at Mercer, PA, 21 Apr (NT). There were too many Merlin sightings to list individually, but one at Stuarts Draft, VA, 7 May provided a new late spring date for *Augusta* (YL), and 12 were listed at P.I.S.P. 13 Mar–21 May (JM). In their 10th consecutive year of nesting on the Gulf Building in downtown Pittsburgh, a pair of Peregrine Falcons produced four young (DBr). A pair that historically nested at Chickamauga Dam relocated to Falling Creek Falls, TN, 6 mi from their old site (DL), while three pairs were known to be nesting in w. North Carolina (*fide* NS).

Fifteen Soras were at Hiwassee W.R., TN, 5 Mar (DG), with 6 at Brainerd Levee 28 Apr (KC). There were 14 Common Moorhens at M.L.W.A. 13 May (CB), and they were common at both the Conneaut and Hartstown marshes, PA (RFL, IF). Three early Sandhill Cranes were in Mercer, PA, 8 Mar (NT), and a total of 13 were near Grove City 7 May (GW); one was at Springboro, *Crawford*, PA, 9 May (AE); another, captured at Belle Valley Elementary School, was released at Siegel Marsh, *Erie*, early in May (JTC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Two Black-bellied Plovers at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, 10 May (WF, RLS) were the Region's only report. American Golden-Plovers were slightly more numerous, with singles at Hooper Lane 17 Apr (WF), Imperial, *Allegheny*, PA, 10 Apr (*fide* PH), and Kahle L., PA, 10 May (JS). An early Greater Yellowlegs was at M.L.W.A. 3 Mar (DJH), 30 were at F.B.R.V. 21 Apr (WF, BO), and a high count of 80 was noted at Pymatuning L. 22 Apr (RFL, IF). Four Willets were at S.H.L. 15 May (HPL). In Pennsylvania, one was at P.I.S.P. 7–8 May (JM, RES), one was at Goddard S.P. 13 May (DD), and 2 were at Hereford Manor L., *Beaver*, 16 May (PM). An exceptionally large flock containing 64 Whimbrels gathered at M.L.W.A. 19 May (DJH, ph. CB), and 10 were at S.H.L. 25 May (HPL) for a 5th local record. Eight Marbled Godwits at P.I.S.P. 8 May (RES) represented the largest group ever reported in Pennsylvania. On 13 May, three Ruddy Turnstones were at S.H.L. (WC) and one was in *Garrett*, MD (FP); 7 turnstones were in a field at M.L.W.A. 19 May (DJH). An estimated 50–60 Red Knots were at P.I.S.P. 17 May (JM). Two Western Sandpipers stopped at Donegal L., *Westmoreland*, PA, 8 May (RCL); another was at F.B.R.V. 26 May, along with 5 White-rumped Sandpipers 29 May (WF, BO). An early Stilt Sandpiper appeared at Austin Springs, TN, 23 Mar (HPL, AW) and another was at Brainerd Levee 7 Apr (KC). In Pennsyslvania, 2 Stilt Sandpipers found at Dunning Creek, *Bedford*, 23 May stayed two weeks (TD), and one was at L. Peru, *Huntingdon*, 24–26 May (GG). High Common Snipe counts included 65 at Dunning Creek 3 Apr (TD) and 137 at Shady Valley, TN, 26 Mar (WC). Single Wilson's Phalaropes appeared at Brainerd Levee 9 May (*fide* KC), at Dunning Creek 8 May (TD), and near Mammoth, *Westmoreland*, PA, 15 May (DL, MM).

The remains of a Pomarine Jaeger were found at P.I.S.P. 29 Apr (ph. JM). A scattering of Laughing Gull reports came from e. Tennessee, including 2 at S.H.L. 16 Apr (WC, HPL), 3 at Chickamauga L. 9 May (KC), and 2 at Nickajack L. 17 May (KC). Single Laughing Gulls were at P.I.S.P. 13 & 20 May (JM), and a Franklin's Gull stayed 8–13 May (RES, CT). Single Little Gulls were at P.I.S.P. 5 Mar and 9 Apr and a Black-headed Gull was there 29 Apr (JM). The Ring-billed Gull colony at the General Electric plant in Erie contained an estimated 500–700 nests; about 30 pairs of incubating Herring Gulls were new to the site this year (JM). Other rare gulls at *Erie* (all *fide* JM) included Thayer's 30 Mar; single Iceland Gulls 7 & 30 Mar and 14 May; 2 Lesser Black-backeds 5 Mar; and Glaucous Gulls 7 & 18 Mar and 11 Apr. There were 50 Caspian Terns on Gull Point, P.I.S.P., 8–11 May (RES); the best count away from L. Erie was of 10 at L. Somerset, PA, 19 Apr (*fide* AM), and one was unusual at L. Julian, NC, 15 Apr (WF). Common Terns were scarce, although 33 were at M.L.W.A. 13 May (CB). As in recent years, Forster's was the most frequently found tern over most of the Region, with a high count of 18 at Kingsport, TN, 5 Apr (HPL). A scattering of Black Terns in the mountains included 5 migrants at Broadford L., MD, 12 May (FP), 2 at S.H.L. 21 May (WC), and 3 at L. Somerset, PA, 28 May (JRP).

DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove populations continued to expand in *Hamilton*, TN, where breeding was confirmed in Chattanooga (CLB). There were a dozen records of Long-eared Owl at P.I.S.P. 29 Mar–23 Apr (DD) and one was near Franklin, PA, 4–18 Apr (JS). A Short-eared Owl stayed at Hooper Lane, NC, through 21 Mar (WF); in w. Pennsylvania a dozen were at various localities in *Erie*, *Venango*, and *Westmoreland* (v.o.). An early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was in *Wood*, WV, 19 Apr (*fide* JE); few other contributors mentioned the species, but 45 banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM) indicated an average migration. An over-wintering Rufous Hummingbird at Signal Mt., TN, was last seen 12 Mar (*fide* KC); another, at Brevard, NC, left 12 Apr (*fide* NS).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were widely encountered, including 6 in se. TN 9–23 May (KC), one at Humpback Mt., VA, 13

May (*fide* YL), and a dozen records from scattered sites across w. Pennsylvania (v.o.). At P.N.R., 8 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded 10 May–3 June (RCL, RM); otherwise, the only report was of one near Franklin, PA, 15 May (JS). On 7 May, a male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reappeared at a historic nesting locality near Charleston, TN, for the 4th year in a row, but there was no evidence of breeding this season (*fide* KC). A Loggerhead Shrike was a rare find at Linesville, PA, 10 Mar (RFL). Following the record winter invasion of Northern Shrikes, late migrants were at Grand River W.A., OH, 15 Mar (CB) and P.I.S.P. 18–19 Mar (MF, EH). Common Ravens continue to increase nearly throughout the Region; nesting was confirmed well w. of the mountains in *Greene*, PA, for the first time (RKB).

An early Tree Swallow was at L. Arthur, PA, 7 Mar (RSt) and 5,300 were at Pymatuning L. 22 Apr (RFL). A colony of Bank Swallows at Boaz, *Wood*, WV, contained 40 nesting cavities (JE); there were 100 cavities at a Conneaut L., PA, site in late May (RFL) and 500 at two colonies in *Venango*, PA (JS). An early Barn Swallow appeared at Franklin Center, *Erie*, PA, 15 Mar (KA). On 20 Mar, two Brown-headed Nuthatches were located at L. Julian, NC, where they are rare permanent residents (WF), and at least 8 were at Kingston Steam Plant, *Roane*, TN, 11 May (FR). An exceptionally early Veery was singing at Middlebrook, VA, 6 Apr (RH). Gray-cheeked Thrushes seemed scarce, but singles were at Jackson Park, NC, 2 May (WF) and Hamilton, TN, 6 May (KC), and 4 netted at P.N.R. 18–27 May (RCL, RM). There was a consensus that Wood Thrushes returned to their breeding grounds a week early, on average, and that populations were up from recent years. There were 200 American Pipits at Hooper Lane, NC, 4 Mar (WF).

Blue-winged Warbler numbers continue to increase in the Region, but there are areas, particularly in the uplands, where Golden-wingeds continue to do well. Atlasing in Raleigh, WV, produced 210 Golden-winged and 95 Blue-winged Warblers (RC); but the *Greene*, PA, North American Migration Count listed 50 Blue-wingeds and just one Golden-winged (*fide* RKB). Birds representing the rare Lawrence's hybrid were observed in *Hamilton*, TN, 13 May (*fide* KC), and *Beaver*, PA, 31 May (BH); sightings of Brewster's were too numerous to list. Rare in spring, 4 Orange-crowned Warblers were at Jackson Park, NC, 24 Apr (WF); 4 were at P.I.S.P. 13–20 May (RFL, AE); and one was near Franklin, PA, 4 May (JS). An early Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Churchville, *Augusta*, VA, 9 Apr (*fide* YL). A singing Yellow-rumped Warbler at Mt. Mitchell S.P., NC, 30 May suggests the possibility of breeding there (TH). Many observers believed Cerulean Warblers were doing well; they were locally common in the Laurel Highlands of sw. PA (RM) and considered "abundant" in forested areas of *McDowell* and *Greenbrier*, WV (RC). A Swainson's Warbler was at Chimney Rock Park, NC, 15 May (WH, BO), at least 2 were at Red River Gorge, KY, in late May (FR), and singles were found at Booker T. Washington S.P. 27–30 Apr and White Oak Mt, *Hamilton*, TN, 1 May (*fide* KC). A Connecticut Warbler was in *Hamilton*, TN, 13–14 May (*fide* KC); in Pennsylvania, singles were in Pittsburgh 17 May (WS) and Butler 24 May (GW), and 2 were at P.I.S.P. 21 May (JM, JTC). A scattering of Mourning Warbler sightings came from nearly throughout the Region; 17 were banded at P.N.R. 5 May–6 Jun (RCL, RM). A Hooded Warbler at P.N.R. 21 Apr was about a week early for that area (RCL, RM).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two Summer Tanagers were good finds at Jackson Park, NC, 29 Apr (WF, RLS), while one was in *Wood*, WV, 5 May (JE) and imm. males were at P.I.S.P., well n. of their usual range, 8 & 13 May (DS, LC). The Spotted Towhee that wintered at Export, PA, remained through late March (v.o.). In the north, where they do not winter, an early Chipping Sparrow appeared at Plumville, *Indiana*, PA, 2 Mar (MMo). Now regular in w. Pennsylvania, Clay-colored Sparrows were at Piney Track, *Clarion*, 23 May (MM), Imperial, *Allegheny*, 30 May (CT), Penssy Swamp, *Lawrence*, 31 May (LW), and 3 records came from P.I.S.P. 14–22 May (JTC, MF). In North Carolina, 2 Lark Sparrows were at Ashville 12 Apr (CG), while one was on Jeffress Rd., *Henderson*, 26 Apr (WF); in Pennsylvania, one was at P.I.S.P. 17 Apr (BW) and another was at Dunning Creek 1 May (TD). Two early Savannah Sparrows were near L. Raystown, *Huntingdon*, PA, 10 Mar (GG). A survey of Henslow's Sparrows produced 9 n. of Butler, PA, in mid-May (GW), 6 at Latrobe 13 May, and 8 at Piney Track 23 May (MM). There was an unusually good passage of Fox Sparrows through sw. Pennsylvania (PH), including 77 banded at P.N.R. Apr–May (RCL, RM). Two Lapland Longspurs were still at Hooper Lane, NC, 1 Mar (WF), and a late bird was at Kahle L., PA, 12 Mar (WFy). An exceptionally early Indigo Bunting appeared at Moraine S.P., PA, 3 Apr (WS). Up to 10 Dickcissels were at Swoope, VA, 20–26 May (YL), one was at F.B.R.V. 20 Apr (WF), and another was at Friendsville, MD, 6 May (*fide* FP).

A Western Meadowlark 13 Mar along Skunk Run Rd., *Mercer*, PA, was a county first (NT). The last wintering White-winged Crossbill at Signal Mt., TN, was noted 15 Mar (ME); 4 were at Russell, *Warren*, PA, 13 Mar (*fide* TG) and a late bird lingered in *Erie* until 24 May (BG). Common Redpolls stayed in w. Pennsylvania through mid-Mar, including 40 at N. Warren 13 Mar (*fide* TG), a few at Franklin (JS) and at P.I.S.P. (MF) 18 Mar; 6 very late birds were at Pittsburgh 29 Apr (JV). A Hoary Redpoll was reported from Grove City, PA, 3 Mar (RSt). Following a heavy winter flight, Pine Siskins were widely reported, including 100 on 23 Apr at Roan Mt., TN (AT). Two lingered at Flat Top Mt., *Bledsoe*, TN, through 24 May (RDS). Although birds in breeding condition were caught at P.N.R., nesting was believed to have been unsuccessful (RCL, RM). Evening Grosbeaks sightings were scattered, with a high of 80 at Roan Mt. 23 Apr (AT); late birds were at several sites in w. PA the first week of May (v.o.).

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western great lakes

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It was an excellent season for rarities in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Highlighting Minnesota's season were sightings of White-tailed Kite, White-throated Swift, and Plumbeous Vireo, all possible first state records. Wisconsin had exceptional reports of Smew and Long-billed Murrelet, while Michigan missed out on the bonanza but still managed a few good observations, including a Brambling. Shorebird numbers were also impressive in all three states. The season was otherwise rather quiet with no large fallouts of migrants.

As has been the trend over the past few seasons the weather was atypical. Regionwide it was dry and warm in the early part of the season, and wet and warm toward the end. The early warm weather accelerated migration for some species, resulting in a number of new arrival records. A particularly warm spell in early May caused trees to leaf-out, making it difficult to detect migrants in the latter part of the season. Also noteworthy were the near-record low levels of the Great Lakes, which exposed large amounts of shorebird habitat along the coastlines.

Abbreviations: MBRC (Michigan Bird Records Committee); MORC (Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee); WPBO (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Minnesota had a record count of Red-throated Loons 31 May, when 30 were counted at Duluth (SW). In Michigan 611 Red-throateds were tallied at WPBO, *Chippewa*, 15 Apr–30 May, with high total of 84 on 11 May. Wisconsin reported 3 different Pacific Loons this season, in alternate, intermediate, and basic plumages 23–24 Apr in *Ozaukee* (TU, DT, et al.); an alternate-plumaged bird was found in Minnesota 29 May in Duluth (SL, SWe). Wisconsin had an above-average number of Horned Grebes, including 600 on 24 Apr in *Ozaukee* (DT) and 440 on 15 Apr in *Dane* (AHo). In Michigan, 5 Eared Grebes 13 May and 2 on 17 May in L'Anse, *Baraga* (LB, JY), and another 2 on 18 May at Calumet, *Houghton* (LB), were considered unusual in the w. Upper Peninsula. Minnesota had a record-early date for Western Grebe, with one 30 Mar at Thielke L., *Big Stone* (BF); a Clark's Grebe at the same location 23 Apr (PS et al.) was the second-earliest date for that species. American White Pelicans continue to show up in above-average numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. All three states had a good showings of southern herons this season, with the exception of Cattle Egret, which remains scarcer than in the early 1990s. A Tricolored Heron 29 May in Hastings, *Dakota* (TT et al.), furnished only the 13th Minnesota record. In Wisconsin, one was seen 21 & 23 May at Oconto Marsh (JS, KS, JSc, JH), while Michigan had one 18 Apr at Univ. Michigan–Dearborn, *Wayne* (JC, m.ob.). In Michigan, 2 Glossy Ibises were seen 8–10 May at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (WP), pending MBRC review. A White-faced Ibis was seen briefly in Wisconsin 7 May at Deltox Marsh, *Winnebago* (RS) and one was present in Minnesota 3–8 May at L. Washington, *LaSueur* (m.ob.). Minnesota also reported 2 *Plegadis* ibis 14 May in *Swift* (WM). A **Black Vulture** was well-documented in Michigan 10 Mar at L. Erie Metropark, *Wayne* (PCy).

WATERFOWL

Both Wisconsin and Minnesota had outstanding migrations of Greater White-fronted Geese; counts of 1500 on 4 & 11 Mar at *Jackson* (PS) are among the highest ever in Minnesota. Ross's Goose had a similarly good migration in the two states, and again Minnesota had record totals, with 98 on 2 Mar in *Jackson* (KB), 100+ on 4 Mar in *Lincoln* (DN, PJ), and 198 on 11 Mar in *Freeborn* (DN, PJ). The Brant that appeared in Feb in *Columbus* remained through 19 Mar, providing an unusual Wisconsin spring record. Michigan reported a male Eurasian Wigeon 13 Apr at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (WP), while Wisconsin had singles at Madison 25 Mar–9 Apr and Green Bay in mid-Apr and 28 May (AP). Minnesota had its first spring Cinnamon Teal report since 1997, with a pair 10 Apr in *Lac Qui Parle* (LE). Also in that state was a presumed Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal hybrid 6 May at the same location (PC). In Michigan, a teal seen 1 Apr at Pt. Mouillee appeared at a distance to be a pure Cinnamon Teal, but upon close observation was clearly a hybrid (AB). Also at Pt. Mouillee was a Green-winged Teal of the Eurasian subspecies 25 Apr (AB, WP); the record is pending MBRC review. The 4 Harlequin Ducks that overwintered in Michigan remained through 8 Mar at Muskegon (AB, CF). Wisconsin reported a female Harlequin Duck into mid-March in Milwaukee, while Minnesota had 2 reports in April and one in early May in *Cook* and

Lake. Michigan and Wisconsin had average scoter migrations, the latter state reporting an unusually high number of inland reports. Minnesota had few scoter reports, with no White-wingeds or Blacks reported from L. Superior, remarkable given that WPBO, on the e. tip of that lake, tallied nearly 2,000 White-wingeds, with a maximum of 421 on 24 May (WPBO staff). For the 2nd consecutive year the Region hosted a **Smew**; this season a male 24–25 Mar at Wisconsin Point, *Superior* (SP, m.ob.), provided a first Wisconsin record.

RAPTORS THROUGH ALCIDS

Minnesota had its first **White-tailed Kite**, an individual that remained 1–19 May at Afton S.P., *Washington* (RJ). Remarkably, Wisconsin also reported this species, with one 7 May in *Trempealeau* (GH). All three states reported Mississippi Kites. In Michigan, one was at WPBO 21 May (ph. CN); Wisconsin's 2 were seen 8 May at Ellison Bay, *Door* (JR); and Minnesota had an ad. 14 May in *Hennepin* (SC, TT). The 476 Bald Eagles tallied at WPBO during the spring census was a record total. Individual Swainson's Hawks were observed in Wisconsin 2 & 5 May in *Bayfield* (DV), and at WPBO 2, 5, & 6 May (staff). A Ferruginous Hawk was reported 18 May at Rothsay W.M.A., *Wilkin* (PS), MN. Rough-legged Hawks streamed through WPBO in record numbers, with 2,600 recorded during the season and a peak of 525 on 23 Apr (staff). Also a record at that location was the season total of 95 Golden Eagles. A Gyrfalcon was photographed in Wisconsin 26 Mar in *Bayfield* (RB).

A Virginia Rail 14 Mar at Bass Pond, *Hennepin* (BB, SC), was record-early for Minnesota. Dry conditions in the early part of the season provided excellent shorebird habitat in the Region, resulting in an excellent shorebird migration in all three states. Many species arrived early and numbers were above average for most common species. Average numbers of the federally endangered Piping Plover were seen. A **Black-necked Stilt** 24 May at Pierce L., *Martin* (MKe), provided Minnesota's 4th state record; Wisconsin had 2 in the Manitowoc impoundment 23 May (CS, TU). Two American Avocets 31 Mar at Salt L., *Lac Qui Parle* (BF), were record-early in Minnesota, as were 3 on 14 Apr in Green Bay, WI (DT, JR). Also record-early in Minnesota was a Greater Yellowlegs 7 Mar in *Nobles* (CM). A count of 494 Lesser Yellowlegs 28 Apr at Pt. Mouillee, *Monroe* (WP), provided a new high for Michigan. A **Long-billed Curlew** 18–23 Apr at Manston W.M.A. in *Wilkin* (BT) was the first in Minnesota since 1991. A flock of 115 Ruddy Turnstones 29 May in Duluth was the largest in spring in Minnesota since the early 1970s. Very early in Michigan was a Pectoral Sandpiper 6 Mar at Pt. Mouillee (KT), while the 1604 individuals there 19 Apr (AB) was a record total for the state. At least 2 of the Purple Sandpipers that wintered in Muskegon remained until 10 Mar (AB, GW, ES), providing Michigan's first March record. A breeding-plumaged Curlew Sandpiper was seen 26–27 May at Green Bay, WI (JR). Very rare in the region in spring was the Buff-breasted Sandpiper 13 May at *Blue Earth*, MN (AH). A count of 174 Common Snipe at Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, MI (DP), provided a record for that location.

The only jaeger reports in the Region came from Michigan, where 7 Parasitics were seen 8–27 May, with a peak of 3 on 27 May at WPBO (staff). In Michigan, Laughing Gulls were reported 15 May at New Buffalo, *Berrien* (WJ) and 16 May at Nayanquing, *Bay* (DD). Wisconsin had a Laughing Gull 12 May at Milwaukee (MK). A Franklin's Gull 2 Mar in *Jackson* (KB) tied Minnesota's earliest arrival record. Little Gulls were seen in Michigan 24 Mar at Pt. Mouillee (AB), 15 Apr on Thorne L., *Jackson* (DBr, MJ), and 6 May at the mouth of the Pilgrim River, *Houghton* (RH); Minnesota had one 13–14 May at Duluth (PS, et al.). An ad. **California Gull** was photographed 8 May in Fond du Lac, WI (TS); another was seen 13 May at Sham L., *Cottonwood*, MI (PE). An adult **Ivory Gull** reported 13 Mar on the St. Croix River (PR) was seen in both Wisconsin (*Pierce*) and Minnesota (*Washington*); the latter record is still pending review by MORC. An Arctic Tern was photographed 27 May near Racine, WI (BH). Also in that state was a **Long-billed Murrelet** on Big Cedar L., *Washington*, 6–7 Mar (RD et al.).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A pair of **Eurasian Collared-Doves** was at a feeder in *Rock*, WI, mid-Jan into late Apr (RP). Also in that state was a Barn Owl 19 Mar in *Pierce* (NCa). Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported Northern Hawk Owls, surprising since neither had reports during the previous winter. In Michigan, there were 7 sightings 7 Apr–1 May of at least 3 birds at WPBO (staff), while Wisconsin had one 15–21 Apr in Thunder L. Marsh. Hawk Owls lingered to 1 Mar in Minnesota in *Aitkin*

The Lark Bunting is rare east or west of its breeding range in the Great Plains, so this male at Stoney Point, Minnesota, 13–17 May 2000 was a nice find. The photo was taken 14 May.
Photograph by Peder Svingen

and until early March in *St. Louis*. Great Gray Owls were found nesting in Minnesota in the Sax-Zim bog, *St Louis*, and also seen in *Aitkin*, *Cook*, *Marshall*, *Pine*, and *Roseau*. In Michigan there were 9 sightings of Great Grays at WPBO 13 Apr–5 May, with a maximum of 2 on 24 & 27 Apr (staff). Michigan reported a good migration of Long-eared Owls during the season and Short-eared Owls were reported in good numbers Regionwide. Windy conditions influenced the Boreal Owl survey in Minnesota, where only 7 calling males were counted, down from 15 in 1999 (BL). In Michigan, 8 Boreal Owls were banded at WPBO 2–19 Apr, with a peak of 3 on 19 Apr (staff). Unfortunately banding was terminated early at WPBO due to a predator problem; prior to the closure, 97 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded, including an impressive 54 on 19 Apr (staff). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was heard calling 5 May in *Ozaukee* (JF), providing a rare record for Wisconsin. Minnesota had its first record of **White-throated Swift** when an exhausted bird was picked up in downtown Minneapolis 10 May; the bird later died and the specimen was preserved at the Bell Museum (RZ). A Three-toed Woodpecker was seen 23 May at the Headwaters Environmental Station, *Houghton*, MI (MS). An Alder Flycatcher in the Lost Nations SGA, *Hillsdale* (JRe), and a Willow Flycatcher in Okemos Township, *Ingham* (BCo), both 9 May, were early for Michigan; a Willow 29 May in *Houghton* (JY) was unprecedented in the Keewenaw Peninsula. Wisconsin reported a Western Kingbird 23–24 May in *Ozaukee* (BC, TU et al.). Also in Wisconsin was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 29 May in *Ozaukee* (NC, TU et al.); another was in Minnesota 6 May at Minneopa S.P., *Blue Earth*. A **Plumbeous Vireo** 13 May in Minnesota (PE) will provide a first state record if accepted by MORC. In Wisconsin, a Blue-headed Vireo 13 Apr in Madison (DF) was record-early.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

The thrush migration was considered almost nonexistent in Wisconsin. A Townsend's Solitaire was found in Michigan 23 Mar near Eagle Harbor, *Keweenaw* (JY), while Minnesota had individuals 23 Apr in Duluth (*fide* DBe) and 5 May at Thompson Park, *Dakota* (DZ). A **Sage Thrasher** was present in Minnesota from sometime in Feb to 4 Mar in Edina, *Hennepin* (DBr, VK, RJ). The **Curve-billed Thrasher** overwintering in *Wilkin* was last seen 24 Mar (*fide* SM, DM). A Bohemian Waxwing at Shiawassee N.W.R., *Saginaw*, 15–17 May (MH, JHu, BG, CSz) was late for cen. Michigan. Minnesotans characterized the warbler migration as poor, while Wisconsin observers gave varied opinions, noting good concentrations at some locations. Michigan had a fair migration, with many species arriving earlier than normal; a Northern Parula 9 Apr in *Dane* was record-early in Wisconsin (TK). Unusual in the Region was an Audubon's Warbler 29 May in *Lake*, MN (SS et al.). Also in Minnesota, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was present 23–24 May at Two Harbors, *Lake* (JLi, SLi, et al.). A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers was at Sibley S.P., *Kandiyohi* (RE), site of Minnesota's only nesting record. A Mourning Warbler 8 May at Warren Dunes, *Berrien* (WJ), was early in Michigan. All three states had good numbers of "southern" warblers this season.

Individual **Western Tanagers** were seen 3 May in Byron Center, *Kent*, MI (FS), 13 May in Morris, *Stevens*, MN (DS), and 27 Apr–1 May in *Trempealeau*, WI (FL). The only Spotted Towhees in the Region were in Minnesota, where individuals were seen 30 Apr at Elizabeth and in *Otter Tail* (SM, DM) and *Lac Qui Parle* (PC, PS). In Michigan, Lark Sparrows were seen 12 May at Tahquamenon S.P., *Luce* (AB) and another was at WPBO 28 May (JG, JRe, m.ob.). Unexpected along the North Shore of Minnesota were Lark Sparrows were unexpected along the North Shore 13 May in *St. Louis* (TW) and 14 May in *Lake* (JLi). **Lark Buntings** were present in Minnesota 13–17 May at Stoney Point, St. *Louis* (RKo, et al.), and in Michigan 14–15 May at WPBO (ST, LD). A breeding-plumaged male **McCown's Longspur** 8 May in Duluth (DB et al.) provided only the 3rd Minnesota record in the past 100 years. Also in Minnesota was a female **Black-headed Grosbeak** 13 May in *Lyons* (PE). Blue Grosbeaks were recorded in Wisconsin in May in *LaCrosse* and in Minnesota 14–16 May in Grand Marais, *Cook* (NB, KH, MHo). Minnesota provided the only reports of **Lazuli Bunting**, a male 16–20 May at Lynd, *Lyon* (RM), and of **Painted Bunting**, a male that returned 5 May to the same feeder it visited last year in *Hennepin* (MN). In Michigan, a **Boat/Great-tailed Grackle** was seen 29 May at WPBO (PC, GB, DJ et al.); the record is pending MBRC review. In Minnesota, a male **Great-tailed Grackle** was photographed 14 May in *Cottonwood* (BBo), while at least three pairs were found at the Grovers Lake W.M.A., *Jackson*, where nesting was first confirmed in 1998. For the 2nd consecutive spring Michigan hosted a **Brambling**, an individual present 31 Mar–10 Apr near Atlanta, *Montmorency* (MM, BGr, AB, m.ob.).

Corrigenda: The Sage Thrasher reported 21 May 1999 in *St. Louis*, Minnesota (*N. Am. Birds* 53:283), was found by MORC to lack sufficient documentation.

Observers (Subregional editors in boldface): Adam Byrne, Bruce Baer, Glenn Belyea, Dave Benson, Brad Bolduan, Ryan Brady, Dorothy Brindle (DBr), Nick Brisson, Don Brooks (DBr), Nathan Carlsen (NCa), Steve Carlson, Phil Chu, Bruce Cohen (BCo), Bill Cowart, Julie Craves, Noel Cutright, Paul Cypher (PCy), Robert Domagalski, Louis Dombroski, Dan Duso, Paul Egelund), Ron Erpelding, Bruce Fall, David Fallow, Jim Frank, Jim Granlund, Bob Grefe, Bill Grigg (BGr), Glenn Helgeland, Anthony Hertzel, Jan Hewitt, Ken Hoffman (KH), Molly Hoffman (MHo), Aaron Holschbach (AHo), Mark Hubinger, Joanie Hubinger (JHu), Bob Huges, Robert Janssen, Don Jennette, Wendy Jones, Margaret Jowett, Vija Kelly, Matthew Kenne (MKe), Rachel Kostelic (RKo), Mark Korducki, Thomas Kozlovsky, Jim Lind (Jli), Sharon Lind (SLi), Sue Levy, Paul Jantscher, Craig Mandel, William Marengo, Barbara Martin, Dennis Martin, Robert Meyer, Mike Moran, David Neitzel, Chris Neri, Mary Ann Novak, Andy Palios, Walt Pawloski, Dave Peters, Ray Potter, Shaun Putz, John Regan, **Jack Reinoehl** (JRe; Michigan), Peter Rodewald, Frank Schermer, Robert Smidt, Karen Smith, James Schei (JSc), Steve Schon, Tom Schultz, Micheal Scheiwe, Ellen Slater, Charles Sontag, Jerry Smith, Douglas Stemke, **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota), Carolyn Szaroletta (CSz), **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Scott Terry, Brett Tilly, Kevin Thomas, Tom Tustinson, Tom Uttech, Terry Wiens, Steven Weston (SWe), George Wickstrom, Scott Wolff, Joe Youngman, Robert Zink, David Zumeta.

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Following a "tropical" winter, the Region's birders enjoyed a mild dry spring. March was especially warm; early in the month a four-day period in Iowa averaged 20° above average. April temperatures were more seasonal but the month was extremely dry, especially in the western states (Missouri recorded the driest April in 106 years). Warm conditions returned in May. The last half of the month brought significant precipitation at least to the Great Lakes area. The mild climate affected migrational rhythms by stimulating an early flight; there were scores of new arrival dates at both local and state levels. The warm spring was also accompanied by early leafing of the trees; in central Illinois Keith McMillan noted that by 15 April "the vegetation was going wild." By mid-May much of the countryside looked more like June.

Observer assessments of the season varied widely; however, there was unanimous agreement that the shorebird flight was superb. Songbirds were decidedly scarce in western reaches of the Region where the drought was most intense. Evaluations of passerine migration were more favorable farther east; however, there were precious few fallouts and those that occurred were along shores of the Great Lakes. Although warbler numbers were good in many areas, several correspondents noted that the May flight had no peak. Indeed, Paul Clyne captured the sentiments of many, comparing May to a really good party at which the guest of honor failed to show.

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle Lake, s. IL), H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., OH), L. Calumet (Lake Calumet, s. Chicago); JaxP. (Jackson Park, on Chicago lakefront); P.R.N.A. (Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, *Jasper*, IL); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO)

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Despite a rather mediocre year for divers, Red-throated Loons were unusually widespread, with 2–9 reported in each of the four n. states. Pacific Loon reports included one at L. Lemon, IN, 30 Mar–10 Apr (†J&SH) and a record-late basic-plumaged bird in Ames, IA, 29–31 May (JJD, m.ob.). It was a below-average spring for Common Loon, the only count exceeding 50 birds being 150 at Clearfork Res., OH, 8 Apr (BCo). Red-necked Grebes appeared in the best numbers in a decade, with 11 in Ohio, 5 in Illinois, and 3 in Iowa. The peak count was of 5 at Paulding Res., OH, 24 May (D&MD). East of the Mississippi R., a Western Grebe appeared at Kentucky L., KY, 21 Mar and 21 Apr (DR, HC) and two record-late birds were at Springfield, IL, 22–24 May (HDB, BD).

The Region's Pelicaniform populations continue to flourish, as evidenced by American White Pelican counts exceeding 100 birds in every state except Indiana and Ohio; the peak of 4525 in *Putnam*, IL, 25 Mar (C&JM) more than doubled the previous Illinois maximum. Double-crested Cormorant counts ranged from a minimum of 200 in Missouri to 2520 in Illinois. Reports of the rarer species included an ad. **Neotropic Cormorant** at Carl. L., 20 May (†DKa), which provided a first local and county record, and Iowa's 3rd **Anhinga** at Dudgeon Park, *Benton*, 14 May (†FM).

Following the pattern of recent years American Bittern reports were extremely encouraging; an impressive 75 birds were scattered across all six states. A **Tricolored Heron** at Cardinal Marsh, *Winneshiek*, IA, 27 Apr–2 May (BCp, †JLF, m.ob.), provided that state's 3rd record. Elsewhere this seldom-seen heron appeared at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO, 15 Apr (TMc, SK), Carl. L., 2 May (LHa), and at Pickerel Creek W.M.A., OH, 25 May into Jun (JPg, ABl). A White Ibis was reported without details at Mingo N.W.R., MO, 24 Apr and 24 May (BR, BE). An ad. **White-faced Ibis** at L. Shelby, KY, 20–21 May (HB, BPB, ph.) provided that state's 2nd record and the first photographic evidence. Another adult was seen n. of Winnebago, IL, 29 Apr (DWm, m.ob.).

WATERFOWL

The Region's prosperous goose populations continue to swell. Many fine tallies accompanied the state-record count of 2500 Greater White-fronted Geese at Anderson Lake W.M.A., IL, 8 Mar (KV). The diminutive Ross's Goose was also numerous, with reports from every state except Kentucky; 42 at Carl. L. 19 Mar (DKa) provided a new state record (the previous high was 13), but three other counts exceeded 10 birds, including a flock of 13 at R.E.D.A. 3 Mar (LHo). Farther east, two Ross's wandered to Summit L., IN, 13 Mar (SP, Haw, et al.) and another was at Grand Lake St. Marys W.M.A., OH, 1 Apr (†DD et al.).

Much of the duck population departed during the mild February weather. Consequently, duck numbers were generally low. Vying for "odd duck" of the season honors was a female believed to have been a hybrid Wood Duck × Mallard in Springfield, IL, 15 Apr (HDB, DOe, reportedly ph.). Reports of the rarer dabblers included male Eurasian Wigeons at Chain-O-Lakes S.P., IL, 17–18 Mar (GAW et al.) and Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 26 Apr–13 May (NB, DOv). A legitimate male Cinnamon

Teal in *Henderson*, KY, 8–10 Apr (DR, BPB, reportedly vt.) was accompanied by a male Blue-winged × Cinnamon Teal hybrid (BPB). Another such hybrid remained at Carl. L., 23 Apr–13 May (DKa, KAM, FB). A remarkably tardy female Canvasback lingered in *St. Clair*, IL, until 27 May (WR) and a female Redhead was still at the Peabody W.M.A., KY, 4 May (DR). The Region's only Harlequin Duck, a female, loitered at Waukegan, IL, until 9 Apr (JMc, SH, AFS). Surf Scoters were more numerous than normal, with many lingering into Apr; the latest date was 21–26 Apr in *McLean*, IL, (MRe, TP). White-winged Scoters were scarce, but one wandered to Thomas Hill Res., MO, 2 Mar (SK). The season's only Black Scoter, also a female, was at East Alton, IL, and Mel Price Lock and Dam 3–13 Apr (CMa, FH, KAM). The only sizeable Long-tailed Duck count consisted of 32 on L. Michigan off Miller Beach, IN, 1 Apr (JKC, SB, KJB et al.). A fine Ruddy Duck tally of 1847 was logged at Chautauqua N.W.R., IL, 6 Apr (R&SB).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

A report from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources indicated that Ohio now has ten active Osprey nests. At least ten Mississippi Kites returned to the Region to establish breeding areas and 3 out-of-range birds strayed eastward across Kentucky, one of which reached Bowling Green 13 May (DR, MB). Northern Goshawks were frightfully scarce, with only two reports for the entire Region; typical spring totals are near a dozen. An excellent Red-shouldered Hawk flight of 158 birds was recorded at Maumee Bay S.P., OH, Mar. 8 (VF). The Region's singular substantial Broad-winged Hawk movement occurred 20 Apr, when an estimated 650 were counted by multiple observers in three e. Ohio counties (*fide* BG) and a flock of 200 was seen in *Knox*, IL (MJB). An ad. light-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen in n. *Porter*, IN, May 13 (†LHi, et al.), where the species is casual. Rough-legged Hawks were in short supply this spring, although, a laggard remained at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, until 7 May (*fide* RHa). Golden Eagles were unusually plentiful, including an unprecedented 7 in Ohio, only one of which was documented: an imm. in *Wayne* 15 Apr (†LEY, †LRM). The 35 Merlins logged across the Region included one of the w. *richardsonii* form near Springfield 1 Apr HDB).

The Gray Partridge population appears to be increasing in nw. Iowa, where the best numbers since 1980 were reported (DCH). Although dry conditions apparently limited Yellow Rail habitat in Iowa, singles appeared in Calamus Marsh, *Pickaway*, OH, 11 Apr (†J. McCormac) and at Clinton L., IL, 15 Apr (RTC). Illinois birders enjoyed an "invasion" of Black Rails this spring, with single birds reported at four locations: Middle Fork Creek, *Franklin*, 30 Apr (†LSt); *Pulaski* 13 & 20 May (KAM, FB); Springbrook Prairie, *Du Page*, 24–29 May (†BF, PH, GAW, m.ob.); and at Clinton L., *DeWitt*, 29 May (RTC). King Rails were also unusually plentiful, with 16 in Illinois, 4 in Missouri, and 3 in Ohio. Common Moorhen numbers have improved somewhat, with spring reports from every state except Ohio. The peak tally was 6 at L. Calumet 6 May (WJM, et al.). Following last spring's invasion, the only Purple Gallinule report involved a bird that lingered at L. Logan, *Hocking*, OH, 30 Apr–27 May (CW, EP, JFr, JLe, et al.). Sandhill Cranes continued their expansion, with multiple reports from all six states. Records from the geographical cusps included two birds at S.C.R. 6–30 May (DAE, m.ob.) and 20 in *Darke*, OH, 10 Mar (BW).

SHOREBIRDS

It was a fine year for shorebirds, especially large ones; they were both early and numerous. Indeed, this group arguably provided the season's most interesting birding. The migration got off to a resounding start with a strong American Golden-Plover flight. In cen. Illinois, tens of thousands were reported in "wave after wave" at P.R.N.A. 1 Apr (m.ob., *fide* JWW). This massive tally was accompanied by four other Illinois counts that exceeded 1000 birds. Other impressive golden-plover reports included 1140 near Lake Park, IA, 2 May (DCH) and 380 at Big Island W.M.A., OH, 14 Apr (VF). Two Snowy Plovers, casual in the Region, were reported this spring. The first was in *Appanoose*, IA, 6 May (†RLC, †TJ, ph. P. Johnson), and the second (and Indiana's 4th) **Snowy Plover** appeared at L. Waveland 10–12 May (†AWB, †Haw, m.ob). The highest among several fine Semipalmated Plover counts were 125 at Arcola, IL, 20 May (GL, *fide* RTC) and 91 in Gary, IN, 20 May (JKC, m.ob.). One to three Piping Plovers were reported in Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio; a dozen with five nests were counted 11 May at the w. Iowa Mid-American Ponds breeding site (BKP, LJP). Black-necked Stilts returned to favored areas in Illinois and Missouri; however, reports of one at Cone Marsh, IA, 14–15 Apr (P&RA, THK, CE, reportedly ph.) and 2 at Van Wert Res., OH, 22–23 May (JPe, JR, ph.), were unexpected. Exceptional Greater Yellowlegs reports included 205 at Funk Bottoms W.M.A., OH, 15 Apr (SSn, LEY) and a record-early arrival at Springfield 3 Mar (HDB).

SA Large shorebirds provided a season highlight. Whimbrels, which moved through the Region in exceptional numbers, provided perhaps the most impressive flight. In Kentucky, where this species is casual, four reports involving an unprecedented 25 birds were logged. The largest concentration consisted of 15 birds at the E. W. Brown power plant, *Mercer*, 17 May (WK). Other extraordinary Whimbrel reports came from *Wood*, OH, where 80 were seen 23 May (CAn) and Mosquito Lake W.M.A., OH, where 61 were counted 19 May (DHo). These tallies are among the highest ever recorded in the Region. Hudsonian Godwits were also plentiful, with numerous high counts w. of the Mississippi R. The easternmost maximum tally involved 17 migrating along the Waukegan, IL, lakefront 18 May (EWW, JIE, ÜDBJ), an excellent spring tally for the Great Lakes region. Perhaps the most remarkable shorebird report involved a phenomenal 52 Marbled Godwits that made a brief appearance on L. Monroe, IN, 20 Apr (†JVR), more than quadrupling that state's previous high count. This species was also reported in every other state in the Region, with a maximum of 30 in *Hardin*, IA, 30 May (MPr).

The smaller shorebirds moved through early and in above-average numbers. Noteworthy reports included Ruddy Turnstones, which were unusually common especially at inland locations; 36 Red Knots at Waukegan, IL, 18 May (EWW, JIE, †DBJ) and 15 knots at L. Springfield, IL, 23 May (HDB); 125+ Sanderlings at Lincoln Park, Chicago, 18 May (TVB); tens of thousands of Pectoral Sandpipers at P.R.N.A. 1 Apr (m.ob., *fide* JWW); and 357 Short-billed Dowitchers at Sheldon Marsh W.M.A., OH, 12 May (VF). Rarities included a Curlew Sandpiper in transitional plumage at the Ward Branch of Rend L., IL, 20 May (†BLC) and a Ruff in *St. Clair* and *Monroe*, IL, 2–6 Apr (†CMa, †KAM, DKa, MLR, ph. m.ob.). Wilson's Phalaropes, which had been vanishing faster than nickel slots in Vegas, staged a stunning turnaround, especially in the western states. In addition to above-

Kentucky's second White-faced Ibis, and the first physically documented, was this adult in full breeding condition at Lake Shelby 20–21 May 2000. This ibis is increasingly turning up east of its usual range, mirroring the pattern of the Glossy Ibis in the West (see the paper elsewhere in this issue). ***Photograph by Shelby Landers***

normal numbers in most states, a phenomenal count of 500+ was recorded at S.C.R. in mid-May (DAE), the Region's highest tally in several decades. Red-necked Phalaropes were also plentiful, with one to 14 birds reported in every state except Kentucky.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

An adult light-morph Pomarine Jaeger frequented Barkley Dam, KY, 22–30 Mar (DR, LP, et al., reportedly vt.). Laughing Gull numbers were up a bit this spring, with 1–6 birds reported from every state except Iowa. In Illinois, where Little Gulls are rare, adults were found at Mermet Lake W.M.A. 25 Mar (KAM, FB, DKa, reportedly vt.) and in Springfield 3 & 6 Apr (BD, †HDB). At Ohio's Conneaut Harbor, where this species is uncommon, numbers gradually increased from one on 11 Mar (JPg) to a peak of 21 birds 22 Mar (JHd, DSa, DBu). The season's only Black-headed Gull, an adult, also came from Conneaut Harbor, where it was watched 18–25 Mar as it molted rapidly into breeding plumage (ES, m.ob.). With the mild February most of the wintering large gulls departed the Region by early March; however, one first-year Lesser Black-backed lingered at Barkley Dam, KY, until 16 Apr (DR).

Caspian Terns arrived early on L. Michigan, establishing new arrival dates for both Illinois and Indiana. Single birds were seen at Miller Beach and Michigan City Harbor, IN, 25 Mar (SB, JKC, KJB, m.ob.); the Illinois bird was at JaxP. 31 Mar (PRC). Common Terns were not especially common this spring; most states reported only small numbers and the peak count of 650 was at Waukegan, IL, 19 May (DFS). One of the season's best finds was an ad. **Arctic Tern** at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, *Lake*, IL, 3 Jun (†DWm, †AFS, MMa, JRS), providing one of only a handful of spring records for the Region. Two Forster's Terns at Lorain, OH, 2 Apr (HA, JLe) were quite early. Black Terns were refreshingly common, with most correspondents commenting about above-normal numbers; peak counts included 480 in *Jasper*, MO, 13–14 May (LHb) and 225+ in *LaSalle*, IL, 9 Mar (JHp).

PARAKEETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

In addition to the entrenched Monk Parakeet population on the Chicago lakefront, a colony of 25 birds was reported 8 Mar at L. Calumet (DFS) and 15 adults and eight nests were reported 24 May in nearby Burnham (WJM). Although Greater Roadrunners are well established in se. Missouri, the appearance of one 29 May in a Herculaneum, MO, yard (near St. Louis) was remarkable (B &C Black). The season's only Snowy Owl was at Dunbar Slough, IA, 1–4 Mar (PJW, P&RA, m.ob.). "Eared" owls were widespread. Peak counts of both species were logged 5 Mar at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., OH, when 9 Long-eareds and 6 Short-eareds (JHo) were seen. Northern Saw-whet Owls were recorded in typical numbers everywhere except in Kentucky, where extensive surveys yielded one to 5 birds between 28 Feb and 9 Apr (SSt). Three additional saw-whets were also found in Kentucky.

A Common Nighthawk at Iowa City 18 Apr (MCD) and 2 on that date at Ames (D. Flanagan, *fide* HZ), provided all-time early arrival records for Iowa. The 40 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at feeders in Mode, IL, 20 May (KF) and 30 recorded at H.B.S.P. 12 May (LRo), constitute excellent spring counts. Several observers noted a dearth of Red-headed Woodpeckers this spring; the peak count was 13 in *Union*, IL, 13 Apr (KAM). In contrast, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Northern Flickers were plentiful, with "tree-threatening numbers" of 50+ sapsuckers along with 200 flickers reported in St. Louis, MO, 7 Apr (WR, JZ).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were unusually plentiful this spring, with many arriving quite early; the vanguard appeared 1 May at Hickory Hill Park, IA (JLF). *Empidonax* flycatchers also arrived early and in good numbers. Noteworthy high counts included 15 Yellow-bellieds at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, 18 May (EWW, JIE) and 7 Alders in *Cook*, IL, 18 May (CF). A Say's Phoebe 29–30 Mar, in Chicago's Humboldt Park (JEL, RHe), provided a 2nd spring record for Illinois. Western Kingbirds were more common than normal; the peak count was 7 in Granite City, IL, 16 May (KAM). An excellent inland count of 104 Eastern Kingbirds was made in *Clay*, MO, 13 Apr (JEl). Early vireo reports included a record-early Blue-headed Vireo at Natural Bridge S.P., KY, 21 Mar (MMo) and a Yellow-throated in Cape Girardeau, MO, 1 Apr (BE). A Black-billed Magpie was reported in *Plymouth* in w. Iowa 22 May (S. Moats, *fide* JJD), where there have been sporadic reports over the past two years. Noteworthy Fish Crow reports included 16 in *Union*, IL, 22 Apr (KAM) and 5–6 at Uniontown Lock and Dam, *Posey*, IN (BPB, JDu).

Purple Martins were scarce across the Region. Most swallows arrived early and in good numbers; the largest single count was 5000–7000 Tree Swallows at L. Waveland, IN, 21 Apr (AWB). The 500 Northern Rough-winged Swallows in *McLean*, IL, 1 May (MLR) also constituted an excellent spring count. The departure of wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches produced no major movements; the maximum count was 7 in *Union*, IL, 22 Apr (KAM). Sedge Wren numbers were below normal, and no concentrations were reported. Kinglets staged a strong flight, with peak counts of

150+ Golden-crowneds in Urbana, IL, 2 Apr (RTC) and 52 Ruby-crowneds in *Sangamon*, IL, 21 Apr (HDB). In Bowling Green, KY, a tardy Ruby-crowned lingered until 24 May (JEm), establishing a new late date for that state. A Mountain Bluebird, keeping company with a female Eastern, was near Peterson, IA, 1–26 Apr (PE, LAS). A superb movement of 272 Eastern Bluebirds was logged between sunrise and 1030 CST on 8 Mar as they flew past Maumee Bay S.P., OH, (VF). Several correspondents lamented a poor thrush flight, but numbers were not uniformly low. At Illinois Beach S.P., IL, 60+ Veeries were reported 20 May, 9 Gray-cheeked were counted 20 May, and 92+ Swainson's were present 18 May (EWW, JIE). A very early Wood Thrush arrived in *Adams*, OH, 1 Apr (PW). Though migrant Brown Thrashers appear regularly in lakefront parks, the count of 20 at H.B.S.P. 15 Apr. (LRo), was noteworthy. It was a good spring for American Pipits, with eleven counts exceeding 100 birds; the maximum was 500+ in *Marion*, IL, 25 Mar (MAH).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Although the assessment lacked unanimity, several observers deemed the spring warbler migration outstanding. Migration was early, establishing numerous early dates, only a handful of which are mentioned below. An out-of-range Blue-winged Warbler was discovered in extreme nw. Missouri at S.C.R. 3 May (PMc). Two extraordinary Tennessee Warbler counts were logged in Illinois: 300 at Urbana 9 May (RTC) and 220 in sw. *Cook* 15 May (DFS), the former furnishing a record high for the state. Early warbler reports included a Chestnut-sided at Mermet Lake W.M.A. 21 Apr (FB), providing a record early date for Illinois, plus Black-throated Greens at the La Rue-Pine W.M.A., IL, 25 Mar (KAM, FB) and Buck Creek S.P, OH, 26 Mar (DOv). A female **Kirtland's Warbler** was banded in Navarre Marsh, Ottawa, OH, 13 May (J. Shieldcastle, VF, ph.), providing that state's 3rd spring record in four years. A singing male Cerulean Warbler in JaxP. 8 Jun (PRC) was most intriguing. It was a good spring for Swainson's Warblers in the s. states, with 4 in Kentucky and 3 in Missouri. Connecticut Warblers were unusually widespread and numerous with reports from all six states; an incredibly late singing male was in JaxP. 18 Jun (PRC). A very early Canada Warbler was seen near Cincinnati, OH, 26 Apr (SR).

Clay-colored Sparrows were remarkably plentiful along the Chicago lakefront; the best counts included 12 in Evanston and Wilmette 12 May (EWW) and 12 at Montrose Harbor 14 May (AFS). An amazing 140 Savannah Sparrows were counted in Chicago's Grant Park 1 May (DEW, DFS). Henslow's Sparrows were widely reported in good numbers; two overzealous birds arrived at Green River Lake S.P., KY, 5 Apr (BPB, MMo). It was also a good spring for both Le Conte's Sparrows and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows; each was reported in four states. A Lincoln's Sparrow, seen in Platte, MO, 8 Mar (LL), was quite early. Harris's Sparrows remained in the west; the only birds e. of the Mississippi R. were in Illinois, where 6 were reported. A tardy female Dark-eyed Junco lingered in Chicago's Grant Park 1 Jun (TSS). Except for a fine count of 350 Smith's Longspurs at P.R.N.A. 13 Apr (JWW, ELK), the longspur flight was not noteworthy.

A season highlight for many was a first-year **Painted Bunting**, likely a male, that visited a backyard feeder in Gurnee, IL, 21–22 Apr (SH, DM, EWW, †DBJ, m.ob.). In addition a female which frequented the Magee Marsh W.M.A. feeders 13 May (RHa, DBl, m.ob., ph) provided Ohio's 2nd record. For the fifth consecutive year a male Lazuli Bunting visited the feeder near Craig, MO, 30 Apr–3 May (E.&W. Wright). Another male was in *Boone*, MO, 13 May (†JPa et al.). Dickcissels were both widespread and numerous this spring. It was clearly a good season for Bobolinks; at Kellerton W.M.A., IA, they were deemed "abundant almost beyond belief" (JSi), and a hefty 181 were counted in s. *Shelby*, IL, 6 May (KF). The latter may well be the highest count ever made in the state. For the second year Yellow-headed Blackbirds returned to Metzger Marsh, OH, where they apparently nested last year; 5–6 males were on territory this year (*fide* RHa). An extremely late male Rusty Blackbird was still in Chicago 16 May (AA). a phenomenal 720 Brewer's Blackbirds were reported in s. Illinois 1 Apr in *Bond* and *Clinton* (DKa). The male Bullock's Oriole that wintered in Elk Horn, IA, was last seen 25 Mar (*fide* MCK). White-winged Crossbills remained in the Region until mid-April; the peak count consisted of a flock of 20 that lingered in Davenport, IA, until at least 16 Apr (CAr). Small numbers of Common Redpolls dallied until late March; the last report was in *Monroe*, IN, 27 Mar (J&SH). The Skokie, IL, Hoary Redpoll first reported in the winter summary remained until 3 Mar (*fide* EWW).

CONTRIBUTORS CITED (Subregional editors in boldface): The following 142 individuals are cited in this report. Some 150 other observers contributed information to the various state lists, but could not be personally acknowledged. A transition to the use of the more efficient middle initials in name abbreviations is implemented with this report. Pam & Reid Allen (P&RA), Alan Anderson, Chuck Anderson (CAn), Hank Armstrong, Charles Arterburn (CAr), Susan Bagby, Nick Barber, Tom Bartlett (TBa), Michael J. Baum (MJB), Frank Bennett, Mark Bennett, Thadas V. Birutis, Adam Blank (ABl), H. David Bohlen, Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund (R&SB), Kenneth J. Brock, Horace Brown, **Alan W. Bruner** (Indiana), Don Burton (DBu), Don Burlett (DBl), John K. Cassady, Hap Chambers, Robert T. Chapel, Brian L. Chandler, Bob Chapman (BCp), **Paul R. Clyne** (Illinois), Brad Courson (BCo), Ray L. Cummins, James J. Dinsmore, David Dister, Michael C. Dooley, Doug & Micki Dunakin (D&MD), Jon Dunn (JDu), Becky Dyer, David A. Easterla, Bill Eddleman, Chris Edwards, Jo Ann Eldrige (JEl), Jackie Elmore (JEm), Josh I. Engel, Pete Ernzen, Vic Fazio, Carolyn Fields, Bob Fisher, Karen Forcum, Jim Fry (JFr), James L. Fuller, Bruce Glick, Joe Hammond (JHd), Jim Hampson (JHp), **Rob Harlan** (RHa) (Ohio), Douglas C. Harr, Leroy Harrison (LHa), Jim Haw (Haw), Jim & Susan Hengeveld (J&SH), Lawrence Herbert (LHb), Ralph Herbst, (RHe), Scott Hickman, Lynea Hinchman (LHi), Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Dave Hochadel (DHo), Frank Holmes, Larry Hood (LHo), James Hooper (JHo), David B. Johnson, Tom Johnson, Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Ned Keller, William Kemper, **Matthew C. Kenne** (Iowa), Thomas H. Kent, Eric L. Kershner, Steve Kinder, **Randy Korotev** (Missouri), Larry Lade, James E. Landing, Jay Lehman (JLe), Michael Madsen (MMa), Charlene Malone (CMa), Walter J. Marcisz, John McDaniel (JMc), Keith A. McMullen, Paul McKenzie (PMc), Cynthia & John McKee (C&JM), Terry McNeely (TMc), Donna Mellen, Lee R. Miller, Mark Monroe (MMo), Francis Moore, Pat Newman, Dennis Oehmke (DOe), Doug Overacker (DOv), Babs Padelford (BKP), Loren Padelford (LJP), **Brainard Palmer-Ball** (BPB) (Kentucky), Steve Pancol, Jared Parks (JPa), Larry Peavler, John Perchalski (JPe), Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik (JPg), Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Thomas Pucelik, Bill Reeves, Scott Reeves, Frank Renfrow, Michael L. Retter, David Roemer, Larry Rosche (LRo), William Rowe, Jonathan Ruedisueli, Dan Sanders (DSa), Jeffrey R. Sanders (JRS), Ed Schlabach, Lee A. Schoenewe, Thomas S. Schulenberg, Jim Sinclair (JSi), S. Snyder (SSn), Leonard Stanley (LSt), Steve Stedman (SST), Alan F. Stokie, Douglas F. Stotz, Ken Vail, Joe van Riet (JVR), Phil J. Walch, Eric W. Walters, Jeffrey W. Walk, Connie Walcott, Bob Welch, Pete Whan, (DWh), David E. Willard, Dan Williams Jr. (DWm), Geoff A. Williamson, Leroy E. Yoder, Hank Zaletel, Jim Zelmer.

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We would like to express our gratitude to Steve Cardiff for having served as spring season editor for the Central Southern Region for the last three years and as subregional editor for Louisiana for many more years. His hard work and high standards are greatly appreciated.

Following another mild winter, the spring was generally mild but dry. In parts of the region it was more than dry; the drought in se. Louisiana is perhaps unprecedented in historic times. There were numerous record or near-record early arrival dates. Schiefer reported a three-day deluge in early April that created interesting shorebird records, and there was a good fallout on the Alabama coast with the front of 24 April. There were many interesting vagrants reported, which the various state committees will have to review. We would like to thank Stacy Peterson whose efforts in gathering and forwarding reports from coastal Mississippi resulted in a great increase in reports from that area.

Abbreviations: EW-826 (Ewing Bank 826 oil platform, 61 mi s. of East Timbalier I., LA); F.W.B.S.F. (Ft. Walton Beach Spray Fields, FL); SP-89 (South Pass 89 oil platform, 50 mi se. of Grand Isle, LA); VE-265 (Vermilion 265 oil platform, 77 mi s. of Pecan I., LA). For records of "review list" species, some documentation has been received, but a statement that a record will be reviewed by committee is no guarantee that any given record will be accepted by that committee.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Red-throated Loons, casual in the Region, were reported in the company of Pacific and Common Loons at *Henry*, TN, 4 Mar (JRW) and *Escambia/Santa Rosa*, FL, 16 Mar–13 Apr (LD, RAD). Other Red-throateds were reported from *Oktibbeha*, MS, 22 Mar (TS, MS) and *Davidson*, TN, 2 May (MLM). Four Eared Grebes were e. in *Shelby*, TN, 26 Mar (DY), as were 4 in *Marion*, AL, 8 Apr (JJ). Another was late for coastal Mississippi 9 May in *Jackson* (*fide* SJP). A well-described **Greater Shearwater** was seen from SP-89 on 16 Mar (KB). A Sooty Shearwater seen from shore at Perdido Key 29 Mar would provide the 10th Alabama record (LD et al.). Reports of two Manx Shearwaters, a species not on the Louisiana state list, from SP-89 on 8 Mar and 13 May (KB), will have to be adjudicated by committee. The only Audubon's Shearwater report came from EW-826 on 18 May (BMM). A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was a good find at SP-89 on 12 May (ph. KB). Increased pelagic coverage is showing this species to be rare but regular in the gulf waters off Louisiana. Masked Booby reports were of adults 5 & 21 Apr at EW-826 (BMM) and a sub-adult 29 May at VE-265 (RLK).

Double-crested Cormorants provided one of the few nesting records for Tennessee in *Davidson/Sumter* when two nesting pairs were discovered 13 May (CAS). Thirteen American Bitterns in *Quitman*, MS, 5 Apr, provided a good number for this rarely seen migrant (FB). A pair of Great Egrets 13 May provided the first Nashville breeding record (CAS). *White*, AR, had its first record of Tricolored Heron when one was seen 19 May and 3 Jun (K&LN). After hints of breeding last year, White Ibises were confirmed nesting for the first time in the *Noxubee*, MS, area 23 Apr–31 May (MC, JBe et al.); 160 in *Tallahatchie/Quitman* 12 May (FB) provided a high count for inland Mississippi. Wood Storks reached Alabama in early May, with numbers climbing to 22 in *Hale* 26 May (RRR, EGR). Because none was reported from usual summer locations in Louisiana, can we assume that these individuals were from the Florida location rather than from Mexico?

Seventy Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Lafayette*, AR, 4 Mar (L&KN, CM), provided an impressive number for the Region and were early to boot. The species was also reported from inland Mississippi, where accidental, with 3 in *Madison* 17 Apr (ph. KM et al.) and one in *Rankin* 8–9 May (ph. CC et al.). A Tundra Swan, rare throughout the Region, provided a first county record in *Lowndes*, MS, 13 Feb–18 Mar (TS *et al.*). Reports of 2 Mottled Ducks 11–26 May and 2 American Black Ducks 8–9 Mar at the same location in *White*, AR (K&LN) should provide a cautionary tale for any out-of-range report of either species. The waters were further muddied by the report of a probable Mottled × Mallard hybrid that closely resembled a male Mottled but had the leading edge of the bluish-green speculum bordered by white, as in Mallard (T&MS). Two ad. Blue-winged Teal with 7 young in *Santa Rosa*, FL, 8 May, provided a rare breeding record for nw. Florida (*fide* RAD). Male Cinnamon Teal were reported from *Little River*, AR, 4–25 Mar (CM,

K&LN) and in *Rapides*, LA, 20 Apr (RJB). A Surf Scoter in *Cameron*, LA, 21 May was rare and very late (JPK, DR). A Black Scoter in *Lowndes*, MS, 12 Apr provided the only other scoter record for the season (TS). A male Common Merganser was unusual from Dauphin I. 7 Apr (GEH *et al.*). A count of 930 Ruddy Ducks in *Marshall*, AL, 7 Mar, provided a new maximum for the state (GDJ, DGJ).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES

Swallow-tailed Kites were widely reported this spring. A report of 30–40 (including 5–7 one-year-olds) feeding over a soybean field came from *St. Tammany*, LA, 1 May (JOC). Continuing confirmation of at least limited trans-gulf migration by the species was provided by reports of 2 seen from EW-826 on 14 Mar (BMM) and one seen from SP-89 on 15 Mar (KB). An early report came from *Mobile*, AL, 8 Mar (JFP). There were several reports from across coastal Mississippi 18 Mar+, with a maximum of 30 from the Pascagoula R. area (JBu, MW). There was also one report of 3 from inland Louisiana 19 Apr in *Rapides* (RJB) and 2 reports of single birds from Arkansas in May (CM).

Cooper's Hawks were reported nesting in urban areas in *Orleans*, LA, (PY) and Memphis, TN, (NPM, SHM). A total of 32 Swainson's Hawks was seen 20–30 Apr in *Little River*, AR, with a maximum of 11 on 20 Apr (CM et al.), indicating that the species may be a fairly common migrant in small numbers along the Red R. in sw. Arkansas. Another was reported in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, 17 May in an area where breeding has been suspected in recent years (JPK, KF, DC). Much more unusual was a report from *Panola*, MS, 16 Apr (G&SK), providing a first area record. Reports of Prairie Falcon from *Shelby*, TN, provided an unusual record for the Region 4 Apr (VR) and 29 Apr (MGW et al.), subject to committee review. A report of 130 Soras from *Jackson*, MS, 13 Apr provided an exceptional number (CDe et al.). In a possible echo from last year's northward incursion, two Purple Gallinules appeared in *Little River*, AR, 7 May (CM) and one was in *Noxubee*, MS, 12 May+ (JBe, MC, TS). A report of 1007 Sandhill Cranes from Hop-In W.M.A., TN, 1 Mar was the highest number reported for the refuge (RG). A detailed report of Sandhill sightings from Grand Cote N.W.R. near Cheneyville, LA, showed that the flocks, which peaked at 1100 on 18 Feb, had dwindled to 17 on 1 Mar and departed by 9 Mar (BB).

SHOREBIRDS

The only Snowy Plover reports were from Rutherford Beach, LA, where 5 were seen on both 29 Apr (BMM, PAW, CS) and 13 May (PAW, DPM, RDP). The only Piping Plover report received was of a rather late bird in *Cameron*, LA, 13 May (DPM, RDP, PAW). American Avocets were reported from inland locations in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Approximately 500 seen in *Cameron* 13 May was a good number (RDP, DM, PAW). A count of 1041 Lesser Yellowlegs in *Tallahatchie/Quitman*, MS, 19 Apr (FB) was excellent, but *8000* in *Prairie* 8 Apr was by far the largest concentration ever reported from Arkansas (K&LN). A Solitary Sandpiper in *East Baton Rouge*, LA, 1 Mar was either the bird seen on the Baton Rouge CBC, providing a scarce wintering record for the Region, or an incredibly early migrant (DFL). Forty-two Whimbrels in *Escambia*, FL, 20 Apr provided a new maximum for the area; 27 in *White*, AR, 25 May was by far the largest concentration ever reported in Arkansas (K&LN). Two Hudsonian Godwits in *White* were rare in e. Arkansas 13 & 16 May (K&LN). A count of 40 Marbled Godwits in *Escambia*, FL, 20 Apr provided the new maximum for the area (A&DF). The se. coast of Louisiana continues to be the stronghold for the species, with numbers ≤110 seen 7 Mar–8 Apr in Port Fourchon (PAW, CS et al.). Red Knots are unusual away from the coast, so 2 from *Jefferson Davis*, LA, 7 May (PAW, CS) were noteworthy. Inland reports of Sanderling came from *Lake*, TN, with 8 on 12 May and 4 on 27 May (JRW) and from *Little River*, AR, 20 May (CM). A report of a Purple Sandpiper 27 Feb–29 Mar in *Santa Rosa*, FL (LD, RAD et al.), was rare for the Region. A count of 2527 Dunlins from the rice country of sw. Louisiana 7 May (CS, PAW) was noteworthy; 7 in *Prairie*, AR, 18 Mar (K&LN) were very early. Difficult to identify in basic plumage, a **Curlew Sandpiper** was well-described in a report from F.W.B.S.F. 12–15 Apr (RAD et al.). Pending committee review, this would represent the first record for the panhandle of a species that is casual anywhere in the Region. A report of 52 Buff-breasted Sandpipers from *Little River* provided the largest spring concentration ever for Arkansas (CM). Five Red-necked Phalaropes in breeding plumage, a species generally rare in the Region, were a good find 20 May in *Prairie*, AR (K&LN). An even rarer Red Phalarope in *Shelby* 17 Mar was well-described—it would provide the 19th record for Alabama (DH, HHK, GDJ, DGJ).

LARIDS

Pomarine Jaegers put in an especially good showing this spring, with 56 sightings from SP-89 from 8 Mar–17 May, peaking with 17 on 7 Apr (*fide* KB). Myers had 15 sightings from EW-826 from 9 Mar–18 May (BMM). A total of 7 sightings came from VE-265, with all but one during the week of 21–26 Mar (RLK). Much more unusual were Parasitic Jaegers, with one reported from EW-826 on 3 Apr (BMM) and two from SP-89 on 23 Apr and various other dates (KB). The rarest of all the jaegers in the n. gulf, a sub-adult Long-tailed was reported from *Escambia*, FL, 4 Apr (RAD).

Franklin's Gulls were extremely early and far e. in *Lake*, TN, 27 Feb (JRW) and were even farther east in *Davidson*, TN, 28 Mar (MLM). The gull of the season was a **Little Gull** which stayed at the East Jetty Oxidation Pond in Cameron, LA, for less than an hour 29 Apr (BMM, CS, ph. PAW et al.). There are fewer than 10 state records. There were 5 reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull, all from Louisiana, including 2 from offshore SP-89 from 9–21 Mar (ph. KB) and 5 from *Jefferson* 11 Mar (PY). The only Great Black-backed report came from *Davidson*, TN, 9 Feb–14 Mar (MLM). Rooftop nesting of Gull-billed Terns in suburban *Jefferson*, LA, is increasing, as is clear from a report of 455 seen there 14 May (PY). A report of 200 Common Terns from EW-826 on 8 May indicates that there is some movement of this species across the gulf (BMM). A report of Least Terns 8 Mar from *Harrison*, MS, Sand Beach personnel provided an extraordinary early arrival date (*fide* SJP). A report of five Black Skimmers from EW-826 on 31 Mar (BMM) was unusual for this coastal species, raising the possibility of some migratory movement.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The dove explosion continues. Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from *Sunflower*, *Bolivar*, *Forrest*, and *Lafayette*, MS, and *Clay* and *White*, AR. In *Pulaski*, 150 were present, the largest concentration to date in Arkansas (TM). White-winged Doves seem certain to be increasing in numbers in Arkansas and spreading across the state from southwest to northeast (H&MP); they were reported from *Little River*, *Faulkner*, *Magnolia*, and *Hot Spring*. Elsewhere, 3 in Grand Isle 28 May were possible breeders (PAW, DPM); one in *Hancock*, MS, 9 May (NM, *fide* SJP) was late and one in *Lafayette*, MS, 19–22 Apr (WMD, GK, SK et al.) provided a county first. Three Inca Doves in *Little River* (CM)

were suspected of breeding, as were two in Grand Isle 7 Mar–15 Apr (PAW, DPM, CS); one at EW-826 on 22 Apr (BMM) was surprising. The only Common Ground-Dove reported was in *Jackson*, MS, 14 Apr (CDe, JRP *et al.)*. A Black-billed Cuckoo, considered rare inland, was in *Shelby*, AL, 5 May (HHW, S&DH); one photographed 13 May in *Lake*, TN, (JRW, MG) subsequently bred. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in *Elmore*, AL, 5 Apr (PR) was early for the inland coastal plain. A Burrowing Owl at VE-265 on 5 Apr (RLK) was unexpected. Short-eared Owls stayed late in Mississippi; 11 were in *Tallahatchie* 7 Mar (FB); 11 more were in *Bolivar* 16 Mar (FB); two were in *Lowndes* 25 Apr (TS, MS). Lesser Nighthawks (pending review) were reported from VE-265, one each 15 Mar and 23 Apr (RLK). A Common Nighthawk in *Oktibbeha*, MS, 20 Apr (MS) tied the earliest area date.

Two Vaux's Swifts were reported calling and flying overhead at Ft. Pickens, FL, 18 Apr (RAD); this extraordinary sighting will be reviewed by committee. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported from four s. Louisiana parishes 1 Mar and reached *Rapides*, LA, 2 Mar (RJB). One in *Butler*, AL, 7 Mar (CK) was early, and one in *Oktibbeha* 13 Mar (MC *et al.*) was the earliest ever there. A wintering Ruby-throated remained in *Iberville*, LA, until at least 25 Apr (SWC, DLD). Other lingering hummingbirds included a Black-chinned in *Lowndes*, MS, through at least 18 Mar (TS m. ob.) and Calliopes in *Ascension*, LA, 12 Mar (NLN, AG), *Iberville* 18 Apr (DLD, SWC), and Pensacola 2 Mar (RAD). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds remained until 18 Apr in *Iberville* (DLD, SWC), 2 May in *St. John the Baptist*, LA, (GS, *fide* NLN), and 10 May in *Harrison*, MS, (GM, SJP, JT, m.ob.). Overwintering Rufous Hummingbirds stayed until 23 Mar in *Oktibbeha* (TS, EW, m.ob.) and until 30 Mar in *Yell*, AR, (H&MP). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Hancock*, MS, 22 Apr (JT, NM, m.ob., *fide* SJP) was considered late.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were noteworthy in *Jackson*, MS, 25 Apr (CDe, AH), *Davidson*, TN, 10 May (PDC, FCF et al.), and *Lake*, TN, 21 May (ph. JRW, JN). An Acadian Flycatcher in *Iberville* 31 Mar (DLD) was exceptionally early and one in *Noxubee*, MS, 19 Apr (TS) tied the earliest area record. Other noteworthy *Empidonax* flycatchers included an Alder in *Davidson* 11–19 May (RHC, m.ob.), a Willow in *Shelby*, TN, 20 May (MTOS), and a Least in *Jackson*, MS, 25 Apr (CDe, AH et al.). A wintering Ash-throated Flycatcher stayed until 5 Apr (RAD) at F.W.B.S.F. A Great-crested Flycatcher in *Harrison*, MS, 21 Mar was early (JM, *fide* SJP). Two calling **Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds** were reported, both of which were believed to be Tropical. One was in *Lafourche*, LA, 9 Apr (RDP) and the other was in *Santa Rosa*, FL, 29 Apr (RAD). A Western Kingbird was at F.W.B.S.F. 29 Apr (RAD, P&BT) and a pair nested in *Little River*, AR, 14 May+ (CM, K&LN). A Gray Kingbird in *Lafourche* 18 May (SH) was a good find, and the pair returned to nest in Biloxi 1–31 May (SJP, m.ob.). There were more than a dozen reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from all over the Region. There were nesting records from Alabama and Tennessee, including *Lake*'s first (WGC, ph JRW).

A Bell's Vireo in *Baldwin* 28 Apr (HH, MiC) furnished Alabama's 4th coastal spring record. In *Caddo*, LA, Terry Davis found an important breeding area for Bell's Vireo, with 10 present 29 May. A Yellow-throated Vireo in *Harrison*, MS, 16 Mar (JM, *fide* SJP) was the earliest in over 60 years. Two Warbling Vireos in *Lauderdale*, AL, 29 Apr were early breeders (JTG). One or two were at Ft. Morgan 24–25 Apr (BS, RAD, LD) and one was at Ft. Pickens 25 Apr (LD, RAD, m.ob.); they are rare in both places. Fifteen Philadelphia Vireos in *Caddo* 6 May (TD) was a very high count. A total of 8 Black-whiskered Vireos was found in coastal Alabama 3 Apr–15 May. Fish Crows are increasing inland, judging from several records from n. Alabama and w. Tennessee.

A Violet-green Swallow seen 26 Mar at VE-265 (RLK) would be Louisiana's first, subject to committee review. Two Cliff Swallows in *Pope* 11 Mar (K&LN) were the earliest ever for Arkansas; 40 building nests at Wheeler Dam, AL, 23 Mar were rather early (GDJ, DGJ). Alabama had ≤5 Cave Swallows at Ft. Morgan 4–12 Apr (GDJ, DGJ, LD, m.ob.), at least one in *Mobile* 4 Apr (GDJ, DGJ), and one at Dauphin I. 16 Apr (SRM). Another was at F.W.B.S.F. 14–15 Apr (M&RR, RAD, m.ob.). A Cave Swallow at the breeding site in *Cameron* 21 May (JPK, DR) appeared to attempt mating with a Barn Swallow. A Barn Swallow in *Montgomery*, AL, 9 March was early (LFG). Single Red-breasted Nuthatches in *Oktibbeha* 2 May (NHu) and *Lawrence*, AL, 6 May (TMH *et al.*) were late. In *Bolivar*, MS, Carolina Chickadees were displaced from a nest cavity by Prothonotary Warblers, which placed vegetation over the chickadee eggs and used the site (NHe). Single Bewick's Wrens were considered rare at F.W.B.S.F. (LD), *Davidson*, TN, (RHC), and *Clay*, AR, (GH), all 9 Mar. Bewick's were nesting in *Boone* (SJG) and *Washington* (MM) in Arkansas. A Gray-cheeked Thrush in *Washington* 24 May (MM) was Arkansas' latest ever.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

There were far too many locally early or late records, especially of warblers, to treat individually. Early records were noted for Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-throated, Blackpoll, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, and Swainson's Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Kentucky, Mourning, and Hooded Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. Late records were noted for Blue-winged, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Blackburnian, and Cerulean Warblers, American Redstart, Worm-eating and Mourning Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

A Lawrence's Warbler at Grand Isle 16 Apr (BEF) was a rare find. Usually uncommon, Nashville Warblers were reported from six locations in n. Alabama and n. Mississippi. Cape May Warblers were reported at EW-826 on 21 Apr (BMM) and *Montgomery*, AL, 30 Apr (LFG). The 114 Yellow-rumped Warblers in *Washington*, AR, were considered a large number (MM). Black-throated Blue Warblers were considered rare in *Jefferson*, AL, 28 Apr (LFG) and *Davidson*, TN, 2 May (PDC, GC); one at SP-89 on 28 May (KB) was also late. A family of Black-throated Green Warblers in *Pope*, AR, 31 May (JA) provided an unusual breeding record. Pine Warblers nested early in *Washington* 9 Mar (MM). Cerulean Warblers were widely reported: 6 in Mississippi, 4 in Tennessee, and one in Louisiana. For another species of concern, Swainson's Warbler, there were seven reports from Mississippi, two from Alabama, and two from Arkansas. Two Connecticut Warblers in *Madison*, AL, 16 May (MSG, CDC et al.) were considered rare; there were three reports from *Davidson*, 12 (PDC, FCK), 13 (CAS), & 22 May (JKS). Five Mourning Warblers were reported from *Davidson*, 3 from Alabama, and one was at VE-265 on 18 May (RLK).

SPARROWS THROUGH SISKINS

Three American Tree Sparrows in *Dyer*, TN, 24 Mar (CDa) were presumably late. A Clay-

colored Sparrow at Dauphin I. 22–23 Apr (WJB, m.ob.), one in *Caddo* 21 Apr (TD), and 3 in *Washington*, AR, 9 May (JPr, RD, AJ) were all considered unusual. Single Lark Sparrows 29 Apr (SWC, DLD) and 6 May (JPK, CF) in *Cameron* were unexpected; 8 in *Lauderdale* 22–23 Apr (JTG, m.ob.) and 2 in *Madison*, AL, 6 May (DRC, RC) were probably breeding. A pair in *Lake*, TN, 13 May (JRW, MG) furnished a first county nesting record. A Savannah Sparrow in *Oktibbeha* 22 May (TS) was late. A Grasshopper Sparrow in *Jackson*, MS 14 Apr (JBu, *fide* SJP) was late; 3 in *Marshall*, MS, 30 Apr (GK, SK) were unusual. A late Henslow's Sparrow was in *Jackson* 19 Apr (JBu, *fide* SJP) and one in *Washington*, MS, 19 April (EA) was quite unusual inland. Le Conte's Sparrows were reported from several areas of Mississippi during April. There were 6 reports of Lincoln's Sparrows from e. parts of the Region, where it is uncommon. A Harris's Sparrow in *Boone*, AR, stayed until 3 May (SR). Truly remarkable was a **Gray-headed Junco** photographed in *Caddo*, LA, 2–3 Mar (TD, PD et al.).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Cameron* 11 Mar was very early if a migrant. A Painted Bunting in *Lee*, AL, 29–30 Apr (SD) and one in *Oktibbeha* 13–22 May (DP, JPa, TS, MS) were unusual. A Bobolink in *Jackson*, MS, 13 Apr (CDe, m.ob., *fide* SJP), and ≤20 in *Boone*, AR, 25–26 Apr and 1 May (LB et al.) were record-early. Up to 35 Western Meadowlarks were present throughout the period in *Tunica*, MS, (JRW) and one was in *Panola*, MS, (JRW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in Louisiana, Arkansas, Alabama, and Tennessee. A Brewer's Blackbird at Ft. Pickens 16 Mar (WJB) was at an unusual location. Alabama's 18th Shiny Cowbird was at Dauphin I. 21–22 Apr (ph. JRW, KN). Unfortunately the Grand Isle area seems to be the epicenter for Shinies in this Region; reports spanned the period from 19 Mar (early) to 28 May (PAW, DPM, BMM, PY, m.ob.) and probably included at least 6 birds. Bronzed Cowbirds are, mercifully, also less common away from se. Louisiana, but one was in *Cameron* 29 Apr (DLD, SWC) and one was in *Hancock*, MS, 6 May (JBi, NM). A Baltimore Oriole in *E. Baton Rouge*, LA, 9 Mar (DFL) was extremely early if a migrant. One in *Oktibbeha* 24 Apr (TS, MS) was rather early and one in *Bolivar*, MS, 9 Apr (NHe) must have been early. The only Purple Finch reported was a male in *Shelby*, TN, 28 Mar (WRP). As of 15 Apr (BS), Red Crossbills were still in the Coleman L., AL, campground, where they bred in 1988; two in *Lafayette*, MS, 24 Apr (GK) were more unusual.

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With increased pelagic coverage of the northern Gulf of Mexico, Leach's Storm-Petrel is proving to be rare but regular. This one was captured at an oil platform off Lousiana 12 May 2000 during Louisiana State University's on-going study of migration across the Gulf. ***Photograph by Karl Bardon***

prairie provinces

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Very mild conditions during most of March gave way to cooler weather in April. Late April brought another warm spell, again followed by a cool period. The warm spells brought waves of exceptionally early migrants, mainly waterfowl and raptors at the beginning of the period and shorebirds and warblers later on. Precipitation was much below normal across the south—until welcome rains arrived in mid-May, while central and northern areas were cooler and damper throughout. In southern Manitoba passerine migration was generally well advanced but sparse. Alberta enjoyed a fine assortment of rarities, but few were found elsewhere.

Abbreviations: I.B.S. (Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB); O.H.M. (Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Rare in spring were a Red-throated Loon 17 May (RLe) and a Pacific Loon 13 May (DK), both in the Calgary, AB, area. A Western Grebe at Delta, MB, 31 Mar (PG) was record-early. Single Clark's Grebes at Patricia Beach 29 Apr (PT, RKo), Natalie L. 6 May (PT et al.), and St. Ambroise 25 May (CCt et al.) were e. of their normal Manitoba range. Eight American White Pelicans at Mt. Lorette, AB, 16 Apr were new for the site (PSh). Up to eight Gr. Egrets were at Whitewater L., MB, in late May (CCt, GH et al.), with singles at O.H.M. 3 May (PG, MKa et al.) and Last Mountain L., SK, 20–22 May (*fide* ASm). Rarer still was a Snowy Egret near Irricana, AB, 12–13 May (RT, JD, RD, TB, PR et al.). Only one Cattle Egret was noted, at Biggar, SK, 10–14 May (GW). White-faced Ibis numbers continue to increase in s. Alberta, as witnessed by 31 at Pakowki L. 18 May (RD, m.ob.) and 20 at Shepard 26 May (GK).

Exceptionally early were single Turkey Vultures at Tilley, AB, 11 Mar (BV) and Brandon Hills W.M.A., MB, 21 Mar (RWi). Similarly early were Greater White-fronted Geese at O.H.M. (JWi, PSu) and Tribune, SK, 5 Mar (CB), Snow Geese at Tribune 5 Mar (CB), and a Ross's Goose at O.H.M. 10 Mar (PG, AD). Canada Geese arrived in large numbers in early March; e.g., 5000+ passed St. Adolphe 5 Mar (m.ob.). Eight Brant at Vermilion, AB, 3 Apr were rare (CG, RH). A Whooper Swan frequenting the Irricana, AB, area was determined to be an escapee. There were at least 20 reports of Eurasian Wigeon in Alberta, including 5 near Irricana 22 Apr (TKk); one visited Killdeer, SK, 4 May (WH). Cinnamon Teal were sighted at Biggar, Weyburn, and Saskatoon, SK, 5 Apr–27 May (m.ob.). Early ducks included 4 Northern Shovelers at Lockport, MB, 19 Mar (HT, LE) and 2 Green-winged Teal at Holmfield, MB, 24 Mar (CCt). Greater Scaup totalled 47—a high number for Saskatchewan—at Condie Res. and Regina Beach 15 Apr (BL). Rarities included a Black Scoter at Natalie L. 7–15 May (PT) and 5 Long-tailed Ducks 9 Apr–29 May, 4 of them in Saskatchewan and one in Manitoba (m.ob.).

Notably early were 14 Bald Eagles at Windygates, MB, 4 Mar (m.ob.), a Northern Harrier at Holland, MB, 1 Mar (AW), single Sharp-shinned Hawks at Brandon Hills 10 Mar (RWi, TW) and St. Adolphe 11 Mar (AC), and a Red-tailed Hawk at Windygates 4 Mar (RKo, AW). Over 50 Northern Harriers were hunting for larks and longspurs along roads between Carseland and Lethbridge, AB, 15 Apr, after a late blizzard (MH). Generally raptor numbers were low at traditional hawkwatch sites in s. Manitoba, but exceptions were 193 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 121 Broad-winged Hawks in 1.5 hr at Delta 4 May (PV). Eight Golden Eagles at Windygates 4 Mar and 7 on 19 Mar (RKo et al.), high counts for the e. prairies, were dwarfed, as usual, by the spring tally of 3434 at Mt. Lorette (PSh et al.).

GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Fifteen Willow Ptarmigan at Ft. McMurray 15 Mar were a remnant of a large winter incursion into n. Alberta (NL). Three Yellow Rails near Ashern, MB, 3 May were record-early (CCs, GH). A Common Moorhen was reported without details by a visiting birder near Whitewater L. 30 Apr (*fide* JWr). Two Whooping Cranes in flight near Ashern 11 Apr were a treat (CCs).

Noteworthy shorebird concentrations included 2000 Black-bellied Plovers near Brooks, AB, 19 May (JR, LV, RWe), 500+ Black-bellied Plovers at Reed and Francis Lakes, SK, 27 May (RKr, JC), 35 Black-necked Stilts around Shepard 23 Apr (RB, JP) and ≤5 near Herbert, SK, 17–27 May (KR, RLo et al.), 73 Whimbrels at Bassano, AB, 22 May (IH), *620* Red Knots at Beaverhill L., AB, 20 May (CW, RWe) and another 150 at Reed and Francis Lakes 27 May (RKr, JC), 4000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Bassano 22 May (IH), 6500 Stilt Sandpipers at Beaverhill L. 20 May (CW, RWe) and 2500+ in the Francis L.–Morse Slough area 27 May (RKr, JC), 1000+ Long-billed Dowitchers at Chaplin and Old Wives Lakes, SK, 9 May (DV, PSa), and 1000+ Wilson's Phalaropes in the Chaplin L. area 9 May (DV, PSa).

Yet more early arrivals were a Black-

necked Stilt at Shepard 1 Apr (BCl, ET), 2 Ruddy Turnstones at O.H.M. 2 May (GH, RSh), Semipalmated, Least and White-rumped Sandpipers at Holland 26 Apr (AW), 2 Pectoral Sandpipers at O.H.M. 9 Apr (GG), and a Wilson's Phalarope near Weyburn 17 Apr (CB). A Herring Gull at Gimli, MB, 5 Mar was record-early (DA). Rare larids included an Iceland Gull at I.B.S. 25 Apr–12 May (BR, TT et al.) and **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** in each province: 3–8 Apr in Regina (BL et al.), 13 Apr in Saskatoon (BK), 27 Apr at I.B.S. (JP et al.), and 15 May near Pinawa (PT, ST, R&MZ). A **Slaty-backed Gull** at Last Mountain L. 15–16 Apr was the 3rd reported in Saskatchewan (RKr, JC et al.). Additional gull rarities were a Glaucous-winged at I.B.S. 6–10 May (BE, RSs et al.), a Nelson's (Herring × Glaucous) at Shepard 24–28 Apr (TKk, J.P), and 2 Sabine's at Luck L., SK, 22 May (SS et al.).

Wintering pairs of Eurasian Collared-Doves were reduced to single birds at Weyburn and Regina by 25 May (BL, CB). A Band-tailed Pigeon was rare at I.B.S. 27 May (RWe). Accidental in s. Saskatchewan was a Barn Owl near Val Marie 17 May (JWr). Nine Northern Hawk Owls were seen between Thompson and Ponton, MB, 1 Mar (BCh) and 15 were noted around La Crete, AB, 17 Mar (RC et al.). One at Shepard 4 Apr was in the same prairie area where one was seen last fall (KJ). Forty Great Gray Owls were in the La Crete area 17 Mar (RC et al.), while one at Stonewall 16 Apr (J&CB) was out of range. A *Chaetura* swift at Medicine Hat, AB, 25 May was rare (BV, RH), as was a Black-chinned Hummingbird in Calgary late May (DBe, m.ob.). A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** at Bottrell, AB, 14-16 Apr was accidental (OD, MPa, ph.).

PASSERINES

Two Olive-sided Flycatchers in Winnipeg (RKo) and an Eastern Wood-Pewee at Grosse Isle, MB (KG), all 5 May, were exceptionally early. A heavy fallout of Alder Flycatchers and Red-eyed Vireos was noted at Wascana Park, Regina, 27 May (BL). A Violet-green Swallow at Wabamun L., AB, 2 Apr was both early and beyond its normal range (Edmonton Bird Club). A Marsh Wren at St. Ambroise 23 Apr was also early (AW). Both Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds heralded spring in early Mar (m.ob.); both early and rare was a Western Bluebird near Longview, AB, 2 Apr (JM, m.ob.). Rare were lone Northern Mockingbirds at E. Wascana Marsh 6–9 Apr (SD et al.), Ashern 27 Apr (RB), and Altona, MB, mid-May (ASc, MKr).

Warbler migration was well ahead of schedule, highlighted by Alberta's 2nd **Blue-winged Warbler** at Vegreville 28 May (CG, RH), a Nothern Parula near Hodgeville, SK, 16 May (MPr), an Audubon's Warbler at Delta 6 May (PV, HdH), a Black-throated Gray Warbler at Calgary 28 May (NT), and an early Northern Waterthrush in Winnipeg 29 Apr (RN). Saskatchewan's 5th **Green-tailed Towhee** visited E. Wascana Marsh 15 May (DV et al.), while Alberta's 2nd was near Tilley 19 May (JR, LV, Rwe). Only se. Alberta had high numbers of Lark Buntings (*fide* DBa). A Grasshopper Sparrow near Ashern 3 May was exceptionally early (CCs, GH). A strong migration of Lapland Longspurs in Alberta included 5000+ at Delacour 22 Apr (TKk) and 10,000+ the next day at Kathryn (M&WB). A Northern Cardinal was a rarity at Medicine Hat 17 Mar (BF, JS); 4 were reported in s. Manitoba. Also rare were a Black-headed Grosbeak at Tyvan 18–20 May (TKp) and an Indigo Bunting at Canmore, AB, 19 May (JG).

An Eastern Meadowlark was found near Whitemouth, MB, 27 May (WC, MW, BCa, LdM), within 1 km of a 1998 sighting. Western Meadowlarks at O.H.M. 11 Mar (RKo) and Zelma, SK, 14 Mar (GW) were exceptionally early. Rusty Blackbird numbers were low during migration in s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba (BL et al.). Common Grackles increased in urban Regina (BL), whereas they were notably scarce in Winnipeg (RKo). Common Redpolls remained numerous in s. Manitoba and Saskatchewan well into April; they suffered considerable mortality due to *Salmonella* infection at some feeders in all three provinces.

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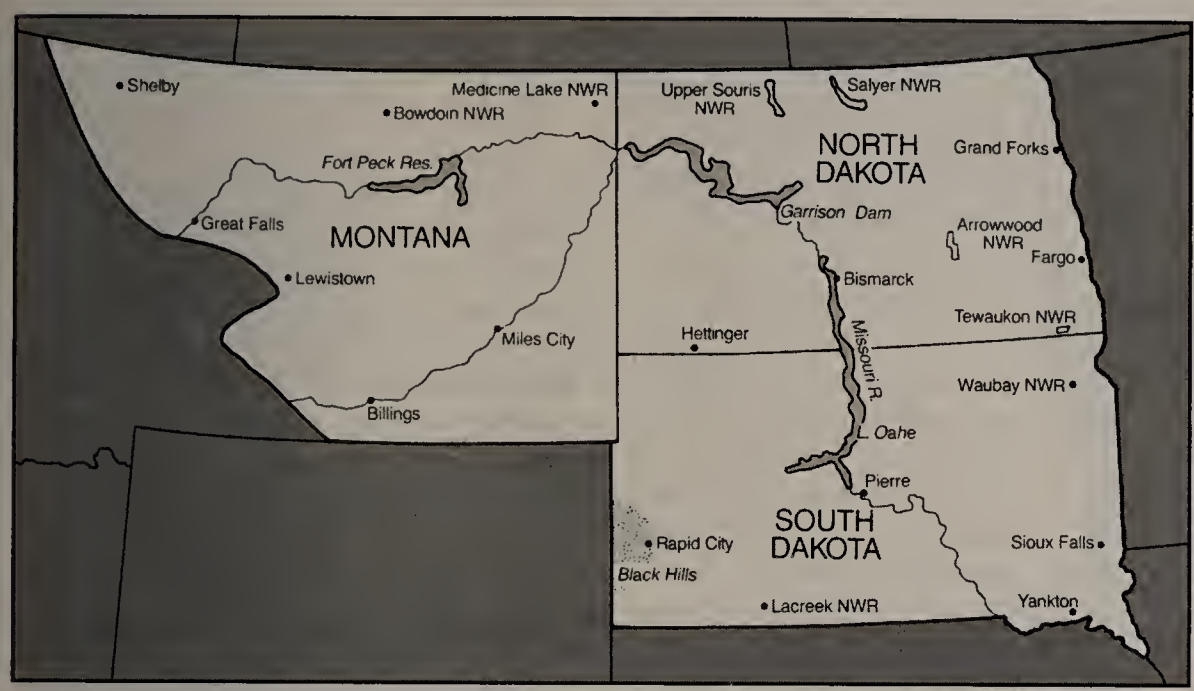
A harbinger of a late spring invasion was this adult White-faced Ibis at Shepard (not far east of Calgary) 14 May 2000. By the end of May at least 20 ibises were around Shepard and another 30 were elsewhere in southern Alberta. *Photograph by Terry Korolyk*

northern great plains



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The early migration of late winter continued into March, with most waterfowl already moving into northern North Dakota by early in the month. Lakes opened earlier than normal, but there was little runoff as snowpack was light. March was warm and dry, April about average, and May was warm and wet.

There was a major warbler fallout in North Dakota 18 May, and several species were reported only on that day. Along with the numerous early species, some species were also late and in above-average numbers. Of particular note this spring were the numbers of Northern Harriers, Long-eared Owls, and Short-eared Owls. Few rarities were noted. Seasonal highlights included a Chuck-wills-widow in South Dakota and Great-tailed Grackle and Lesser Goldfinch in Montana.

Conventions: Observations marked with a † are subject to review by the appropriate state records committee.

GREBES THROUGH SCOTERS

The earliest record by ten days, a Pied-billed Grebe was in Fargo, ND, *7 Mar* (DPW). A Red-necked Grebe *2 Apr* in *Brown*, SD, tied the earliest date for the state (DAT). The Clark's Grebe at Long Lake N.W.R., ND, *14 Apr* provided the earliest record for the state (HCT), and a peak of 7 was tallied in *Kidder* 13 May (REM). Waders generally considered casual at best were noted in the Medicine L. N.W.R., MT, area, including a Great Egret (EM), a Cattle Egret 29 Apr (RS), and a Green Heron 27 May that furnished about the 12th record for the state (†RS, NP, EU). Also unusual at Medicine L. were White-faced Ibises 7 May and 11 May (EM, MR). Casual in North Dakota, a Little Blue Heron was noted 20–21 May in *Kidder* (HCT).

Migrant geese were noted in numbers in the northern reaches of the region by early March. A Ross's Goose in *Burleigh*, ND, *2 Mar* was the earliest by 12 days (PCV). Providing the first records for North Dakota, single blue-morph Ross's Geese were noted the week of 20 Mar near Lostwood N.W.R. (*fide* BD) and in *McHenry* 9 Apr (REM). South Dakota's first was recorded 9 Mar when one was shot in *Codington* (LL). Tundra Swans peaked at 15,000 at Freezeout L., MT, 16 Mar (MS), and 4 Trumpeter Swans in *Cass*, ND, 22 Mar provided the 18th record for the state (†CAS, CMN).

The breeding success of waterfowl in recent years was reflected in peak counts in North Dakota of *10,000* Gadwall in *McLean* and *Sheridan* 16 Apr, and 13,000 Mallards and *47,000* Pintails in *Burleigh* 18 Mar (DS, HCT, REM). Single Eurasian Wigeons in *Steele* 9 Apr (†DLK) and *Adams* 14–15 Apr (†DAG, CG) provided the 12th and 13th records for North Dakota. A peak of *25* male Eurasian Wigeons was tallied at Freezeout L., MT, 17 Mar, where they have been increasing since at least 1987 (MS). Another migrant seemingly on the increase in North Dakota, *2400* Greater Scaup were counted in ne. North Dakota 15 Apr (EEF). A Black Scoter observed in Kingsbury 18 Mar (†JSP) provided only the 3rd spring sighting in South Dakota. Furnishing only the 2nd May record for North Dakota, a Long-tailed Duck was tallied 13 May in *Grand Forks* (†EEF).

RAPTORS THROUGH DOVES

The first nesting attempt by a pair of Bald Eagles in the Fort Peck, MT, area produced a completed nest, but the birds abandoned the area by late March (CC). Northern Harriers were widespread in above-average numbers. Common and increasing, 30-plus Cooper's Hawk nests were found in n. North Dakota this spring, with three nests in one quarter section in Grand Forks, ND (DOL, BM, v.o.). Rough-legged Hawks made a strong late-season showing, with one in *Harding*, SD, 15 May (VDF), and 5 in *Stutsman*, ND, 26 May (LDI). Regular sightings of 2–4 Peregrine Falcons in downtown Fargo, ND, during May led to speculation about a nesting attempt (WC). The last confirmed nesting in the state was in 1954.

Early shorebird movement was unprecedented in the Dakotas, with nine species recorded in March in South Dakota and six species in North Dakota. Black-necked Stilt sightings continue to increase: three reports from South Dakota included the state's earliest *11 Apr* in *Sanborn* (RGR). Second-earliest for North Dakota, a pair was noted in *Cass* 29 Apr (KRC). Four Red Knot reports from Montana spanned 12–26 May (CC, CP, SD, AB). Two American Woodcocks were well nw. of their normal range at Des Lacs N.W.R., ND, 6 May (BM). The earliest for the state and the 12th record, a Red Phalarope spent 14–18 May at the Minot Sewage Lagoons, ND (BD). For the 3rd consecutive year, **Arctic Terns** were noted at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, where 2 were present from 20 May+ (SD).

A **Eurasian Collared-Dove** 19 May in Malta, MT, was joined by another 29 May. These birds were in the same area where Montana's 4th record was documented in 1999 (GF). North Dakota's 5th and 6th records were provided by one in Hettinger 21–28 Apr (DAG, CG) and a pair in May in Dickinson (*fide* DAG). In South Dakota, 2 were found in *Hughes* 30 Apr (EDS) and one was at the Shadehill Recreation Area 19 May (CW, LW). There are now about 10 records for the state.

OWLS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

A Burrowing Owl, now rare east of the Missouri R. in North Dakota, was seen 24 Apr in *Stutsman* (CGO). Long-eared Owl numbers were the highest in at least the last 20 years, and the species was relatively easy to find in some areas of North Dakota. At least 24 nests were found in nw. and nc. ND (BM, var. obs). Short-eared Owls were even more numerous, with daily counts in double figures not uncommon in North Dakota. Vole populations appeared to be high in some areas. In South Dakota, observers reported both species more than normal, with Long-eareds noted in four counties and Short-eareds in 11 counties. South Dakota's 6th record of the **Chuck-will's-widow** was furnished by a singing bird 15 May below Oahe Dam, *Stanley* (RFS, JSP). This species was recorded in the same area from 1986–1988.

South Dakota's earliest-ever Eastern Phoebe was in *Roberts 27 Mar* (BKH). A late Northern Shrike in *Grand Forks* 3 May (EEF) provided the 2nd May record for North Dakota. Record-early vireos were a Yellow-throated *29 Apr* in *Minnehaha*, SD (RFS, JSP) and a Philadelphia in Jamestown, ND, *28 Apr* (SRM, HLM). Two extralimital Violet-green Swallows were reported in North Dakota, with one at Lostwood N.W.R. 11 May (BM) and one in *Kidder* 13 May, the latter the most easterly record in the state (REM, LEM).

A female Red-breasted Nuthatch with a well-developed brood patch was banded in Aberdeen, SD, 25 May, furnishing the first breeding evidence for the species in e. South Dakota (DAT). A Rock Wren was found well to the east of usual range in *Grand Forks*, ND, 2 May (EEF). Casual in Montana, a Sedge Wren was near Medicine L. N.W.R. 8 May (†EM). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to increase away from known breeding areas, with two North Dakota reports and two ne. South Dakota observations.

THRUSHES THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Varied Thrush in *Ward* 10 May (DL) provided the second-latest observation for North Dakota. Record-early in South Dakota was an American Pipit *18 Mar* in *Kingsbury* (JSP). Montana's 12th record of Cape May Warbler was noted at Medicine L. NWR 17 May (†RS). **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports included Montana's 7th at Fort Peck 16 May (†CC) and a late individual at Arrowwood N.W.R., ND, 31 May (*fide* PRS). Casual in South Dakota, a Worm-eating Warbler was in *Union* 21 May (†DS), and a Hooded Warbler was in *Union* 20 May (†TH). A Hooded was also found in North Dakota, the state's 18th, at Fargo 29 May (†DPW). A Scarlet Tanager in *Lincoln 20 Apr* (MKZ) provided South Dakota's earliest record.

Sparrows made an early showing in South Dakota, with a Savannah in *Clay 22 Mar* (DS), a Lincoln's in *Sanborn 2 Apr* (RGR), and a Swamp in *Clay 22 Mar* (DS). In North Dakota, a Field Sparrow in Fargo 30 Mar was the earliest for *Cass* by 11 days (DPW). A new peak for North Dakota was the *75,000* Lapland Longspurs in *Ward* 10 Apr (REM); a late individual was in Jamestown 26 May (LDI). Two Black-headed Grosbeaks in Jamestown, ND, 15 May were in an area where they have been observed for five consecutive years (DHJ). Also at Jamestown, a Lazuli Bunting was e. of normal range 19 May (SRM, HLM). Rare in Montana, an Indigo Bunting was at Dodson Dam, *Phillips*, 14 May (KE).

Providing the 2nd Montana record, a male **Great-tailed Grackle** was found at Medicine L. N.W.R. 30 May (JF, †SP). A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch *13 Apr* in Oakes, ND, furnished the latest and easternmost record for the state (*fide* DK). A male **Lesser Goldfinch** was at a Glasgow, MT, feeder 15 May (†DE), providing the 3rd record for the state, all in the Glasgow-Fort Peck area.

Corrigendum: In *N. Am. Birds* 53:402, I incorrectly stated that "As yet unconfirmed in South Dakota, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. . . ." There is one confirmed breeding record from *Walworth* 12 Jul 1992 by Williams and Zimmer (*South Dakota Breeding Bird Atlas*, p. 240, Richard Peterson).

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Parts of northeast and southeast Texas (and an isolated pocket in coastal South Texas) got enough rain to quash any talk of drought, but the rest of the state remained exceptionally dry. Eight years of drought began to take its toll on the pine-oak woodlands in the mountains of west Texas. Observers in north Texas and the High Plains cited this as a very good to "phenomenal" migration. In the latter area five new species were added to the subregional list and the flood of eastern passerines (windblown?) was exceptional. A major front which moved through the state 1–3 May brought the best passerine groundings; another storm 19–20 May dropped a lot of shorebirds and flycatchers in eastern and coastal areas. Although there was a typical smattering of late lingering individuals, the list of early arrivals (predominantly in March) was a pervasive theme throughout the state. Some broad-scale geographic weather patterns were clearly at work. Once again, our overall picture of the migration benefitted from a set of oil-rig sitters offshore.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.S.W.T.P. (South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas); TBRC (Texas Bird Records Committee–Texas Ornithological Society); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast), V.C.D.B. (Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Aransas, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazoria, Buffalo L., Devil's R., Government Canyon, McFaddin, Padre Island, Richland Creek, Santa Ana, and Seminole Canyon.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO

The only Red-throated Loon reported for the season was a single bird offshore of *Calhoun* 13 Mar (BGi). Three Pacific Loons were reported—Sam Rayburn Res. in late Feb (DW, MAd et al.), Lavaca Bay 25 Mar (PH), and Galveston until early Mar (DPe, GG). An extremely late Horned Grebe was reported at McFaddin 15 May (MWb). Clark's Grebes made news: one was on Baffin Bay, *Kenedy/Kleberg*, 19 Mar (TFe et al.), a first coastal record, while another was at Buffalo L., *Randall*, 13–20 May (KS, m.ob.), a first Panhandle record. Looking westward, a high count of 92 *Aechmophorus* grebes was made at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, 24 Mar (JPa); they also returned in numbers to Balmorhea L. following last year's fish kill (*fide* KB). A single Audubon's Shearwater was seen from an oil rig off *Calhoun* 21 Mar (BGi). An imm. Brown Pelican was at Ft. Bliss 29 Apr (JPa, RR), providing a rare record for *El Paso*. A Neotropic Cormorant in Big Bend's Santa Elena Canyon 17 Apr (TL) was notable. Noteworthy w. Texas American Bittern records included one at Ft. Bliss 6 May (JSp, RR), the first area record in 14 years, and one at Buffalo L. 11 & 19 May (KS). A Least Bittern at Big Bend 14 May (KB) provided a rare spring record. Five Little Blue Herons were reported from scattered locations in w. Texas (17 Apr–21 May), where they are normally only post-breeding wanderers. Similarly, there were three Trans-Pecos records of Tricolored Herons, including individuals at Big Bend 27 Apr (CT), El Paso 2–4 May (JSp), and Balmorhea L. 10–15 May (RiW, ML, GL). The Reddish Egret at Balmorhea L. remained until at least 15 May (ML, GL). We had five reports of inland Glossy Ibises: 10 Apr at V.C.D.B. (MR), 2 May at Temple (RPi), 2 May at Balmorhea L. (BGi), 23 May

SA There was an apparent influx of **Greater Flamingoes** onto the Texas coast this spring. One showed up in Aransas Bay, *Aransas*, 5 Apr, discovered by a local fisherman (ChN). A second flamingo joined the first about "three weeks later"—they remained through the period and were well-documented (ph., JJ, MC, m.ob.). Another Greater Flamingo was found in Calhoun (Espiritu Santo/San Antonio Bays) 15–16 Apr (JWa, ph., *fide* PH). These birds are of the expected Caribbean subspecies, were in bright plumage, and showed no signs of captivity. In addition, we received unsubstantiated reports of at least two others along the Laguna Madre. Prior to this spring the only accepted Texas record of this species was of a single bird present in the upper Laguna Madre for five consecutive springs between 1978–1982. A widely reported Greater Flamingo at Laguna Atascosa during the mid-1990s proved to be of the African subspecies and was thought to be a zoo escapee.

Greater Flamingoes generated excitement in Texas, for they were believed to be wild strays from the Caribbean, the second such occurrence in the state. Through much of spring 2000 these two frequented Aransas Bay, where this photograph was taken 7 May. See the S.A. in the Texas region for details. *Photograph by Jimmy Jackson*

at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas* (BSt), and 25 May at Waco (FB, JMu). A concentration of 150 Wood Storks at Falcon Dam 28 May (MA) was an early vanguard of things to come in the summer, perhaps an indicator of drought in Mexico. Two Black Vultures along the Rio Grande in *Hudspeth* 9 Apr (JSp, JPa et al.) provided a rare record for that area.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A first for the South Plains, ten Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were at Levelland, *Hockley*, 3–4 May (LeS, ERo, TMc). Another showed up at Nacogdoches in e. Texas 12 Apr (DW). A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Austin 22–26 May (TFe et al.) was unexpected. A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 6 Apr († PH, BrF). Out of place in the Panhandle were two Mottled Ducks at Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 7 Apr (KS). Cinnamon Teal made unusual appearances in e. Texas: two males were on Sam Rayburn Res. 26–27 Feb and 21 Mar (DW). Five more Cinnamons were at Richland Creek 12 Mar–16 Apr (PBa). Unusual for w. Texas, a male Greater Scaup was at Balmorhea L. 15 May (GL, ML). A small raft of 8 Surf Scoters was at Bolivar Flats 15 Apr (RWe, CCo, T&SC). Three Long-tailed Ducks were on the U.T.C. during March. Late Common Goldeneyes included individuals at Waco 20 Apr (JMu, FB) and Round Rock, *Williamson*, 2 May (TFe). Five Red-breasted Mergansers at Sam Rayburn Res. 12 May (DW) were also late.

A total of 22 Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from the Sylvan Beach hawkwatch, *Harris*, 16 Mar–28 Apr (DBe, JRe et al.), certainly a high count from a single location. White-tailed Kites were noted in *Delta*, *Freeman*, *Hardeman*, *Smith*, and *Tarrant* during late April and May; this number of reports is unusual for that part of the state. Providing a first breeding record for the Davis Mts., a nest of Sharp-shinned Hawks was located on private property 20 May (KB, JKa). Two ad. Gray Hawks frequented Limpia Creek, *Jeff Davis*, 2 May+ (BGi, KB), providing the 7th county record. Common Black-Hawks returned to traditional nesting sites at Big Bend, the Davis Mts., and near San Angelo. Single Broad-winged Hawks were found w. of their normal migration path at *El Paso* 21 Apr (JPa), Buffalo L., *Randall*, 9–13 May (BH, KS, LG), and *Crosby* 13 May (RKo, JB). A Short-tailed Hawk was described from Santa Ana 16 Mar (†TP); there are only about a dozen records for the state. Zone-tailed Hawks were reported from three cen. Coastal Plain locations during March (m.ob.); more unexpected was one at Midland 6 May (DK, VW). Rare migrants for e. Texas, 5 Merlins were reported in *Angelina*, *Rusk*, and *Gregg* 1 Apr–1 May (m.ob.). Of interest was an Aplomado Falcon on an oil rig off *Calhoun* 18 Apr (BGi). Another was found between Winnie and Port Arthur 28 Apr (AF); this sighting is the easternmost of an individual from the reintroduction program. A Prairie Falcon was discovered in *Calhoun* 5 Mar (BrF, PH), providing a rare record for the Coastal Bend.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Sadly, for the first time, Attwater's Greater Prairie-Chickens were not found at the traditional lek in *Refugio* (*fide* PH). Purple Gallinules arrived early, with one on a *Brazoria* oil rig 15 Mar (MN) and others along the Upper Coast during March. A high count of 232 American Golden-Plovers was at Sam Rayburn Res. 15 Mar (DW). Migrating Snowy Plovers were of note at Tahoka, *Lynn*, 4 Mar (WC) and L. Worth, *Tarrant*, 10 Apr (MR). A Snowy Plover with young at Bolivar Flats 29 Apr (VE et al.) provided the first nesting record for that area since the 1930s. A surprising concentration of 844 Semipalmated Plover was at Brazoria 25 Apr (RWe). A large concentration of 186 Mountain Plovers was noted near Granger L. 13 Mar, with 5 remaining until 25 Mar (TFe); another was present 25 Mar at El Paso (SH), where the species is accidental. Three Black-necked Stilts at L. Tawakoni 25 May (MWh, BSt) were the first for that location in 20 years. Over 60 American Avocets at Sam Rayburn Res. 12 Apr (DW) provided the highest

count ever at that location. Flocks of 6–50 avocets were noted in other ne. locations. A remarkable concentration for the Panhandle was 75 Greater Yellowlegs 28 Mar in *Randall* (KS). Unexpected for the Austin area were 27 Willets 25 Apr and 14 others 1 May (TFe). Small numbers of Willets were noted in several areas of the Panhandle, with individuals at Lubbock 1 Apr (AF) and *Crosby* 8 May (RK), and two at Taylor Lakes, *Donley*, 26 Apr (KS). Small numbers were also noted in four e. Texas counties. Three early Upland Sandpipers were in *Randall* 26 Mar (LSa). Notable inland Whimbrels included one at Balmorhea L. 13 Apr (DO, JSc), 4 at Salado, *Bell*, 1 May (RPi), and 10 at Cooper L. 19 May (MWh, BSt). Continuing the parade of rare migrants in e. Texas, ≤6 Hudsonian Godwits were in Longview 1–19 May (EdR, et al.). A high count of 10 Marbled Godwits was made at Balmorhea L. 2 May (BGi). A Sanderling at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth*, 30 May (JPa) and 5 White-rumped Sandpipers at Ft. Bliss 21 May (JPa, RR) provided rare spring records for the Trans-Pecos. Over 1500 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported in *Calhoun* 1 Apr (PH, BrF). Noteworthy inland Dunlins included 17 in *San Augustine* (DW) and 30 in *Harrison* 19 May (GLu, EdR) and 4 in *Randall* 30 Mar (BiMc). Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Nacogdoches 4 May (DW) provided one of the few spring record for e. Texas. An early concentration for the Panhandle was 200 Long-billed Dowitchers 28 Mar in *Randall* (KS). Unusual in spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Indianola, *Calhoun*, 7 May (BrF).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Pomarine Jaegers were noted from oil rigs in *Galveston*, *Brazoria*, *Calhoun*, and *Kenedy*, and there were land-based observations from Bolivar Pen. and Padre Island. Notable for the Trans-Pecos were single Laughing Gulls at McNary Res. 13–15 May (JPa, GL, ML) and Balmorhea L. 10–15 May (RiW, ML, GL). A Mew Gull was reported from *Galveston* 11 & 24 Mar (WRi). California Gulls are rare but regular in the Trans-Pecos; this spring 2 were at McNary 26 Apr and 15 May (RR, GL, ML) and one was at Balmorhea L. 6 Apr. (KB). The well-documented apparent *vegae* Herring Gull in Corpus Christi from the winter was last noted 6 Mar (WS, MR, B&JRi). For more information see http://www.martinreid.com/vegup05.html. Two ad. Thayer's Gulls were at the Brownsville Landfill 6 Mar (†MI, KE). A first-year Thayer's was at Bolivar Flats 15 Apr (†RR) and Rollover Pass 17 Apr († GM, MAd). About a dozen Lesser Black-backed Gulls were scattered along the coast. More notable was a second-year Lesser Black-backed at Buffalo L. 28 Apr & 18 May († EK, RSc, LSa, KS), providing the first Panhandle record. An intriguing gull, possibly a first-year Slaty-backed, was at La Marque, *Galveston*, 2–3 Apr (†B&JRi, MR); documentation is still being reviewed (see http://www.martinreid.com/gullsp09.html). A Black-legged Kittiwake was seen from the *Calhoun* oil rig 11 Mar (BGi). Four Common Terns were at Balmorhea L. 9 May (DO), providing a first spring record there. An unprecedented concentration for the Panhandle was 200–300 Forster's Terns at Buffalo L. 21 Apr (PT). An imm. **Brown Noddy** visited the *Kenedy* oil rig from 27 Apr–1 May (ph., †AW), providing the 7th record for the state.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collard-Doves continue to expand their range in Texas, with new records for *Bee* and *Denton*. They are now present in virtually every town and city along the coast between Corpus Christi and the Louisiana border. Common Ground-Doves seemed to be wandering a little, with sightings in *Brazos*, *Burleson*, *Freestone*, and *Jeff Davis*. A Ruddy Ground-Dove was in El Paso 25–28 Mar (†JPa, SH, m.ob.); there are now about a dozen records of this species in Texas. Providing the 8th Texas record, a **Mangrove Cuckoo** visited a Corpus Christi neighborhood 3–4 May (†, ph., RBe, m.ob.). Like all previous Texas records, it was of the *continentalis* race. Certainly not an expected offshore sighting, a Short-eared Owl flew past the *Kenedy* oil rig 29 Mar (AW). Rare but becoming expected on the U.T.C. as a migrant, 5 single Lesser Nighthawks were noted flying past oil rigs in *Brazoria* and *Galveston* 29 Mar–18 Apr (MN, SP). A Whip-poor-will in *Anderson* on the very late date of 31 May (JY) was curious; the species is not known to nest in ne. Texas.

One and possibly 2 Green Violet-ears were in Corpus Christi 5–8 May (†, ph., MC, B&JRi); Texas now has more than 30 records. A male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a Ft. Davis feeder 24 Apr–6 Jun (†KB, m.ob.) for the 3rd consecutive year. At a less likely location, a female Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Zapata 3 May (†DT, MJ). The 4th Texas (first for spring) record of **Berylline Hummingbird** was that of a photographed bird in the Davis Mts. 25 May (†M&ME, MAd). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were again noted on the U.T.C. in late April/early May, but so far no nesting has been documented there (*fide* RWe). In a repeat of recent seasons, one was in *Washington* 4 Mar+ (MEf). An out-of-range Blue-throated Hummingbird was in San Antonio 7 Apr (CCu). For decades, records of Lucifer Hummingbirds in Texas were confined to Big Bend, but in recent years they are showing up in the Davis Mts. with increasing frequency. This season ≤7 were at several Davis Mts. locations 25 Apr–31 May (KB, M&ME, MAd, LH). Another provided the first spring record for the Edwards Plateau, in *Gillespie* 14–23 May (ph., HS). A Black-chinned Hummingbird 6 Apr was new for *Brazos* (CD). A Costa's Hummingbird was described from Big Bend 19 May (B&JRi); if accepted by the TBRC it will provide the 7th Texas record. New for the South Plains was an Acorn Woodpecker in Lubbock 9 May (†PKi, BPh). There was a late Williamson's Sapsucker in the Davis Mts. 15 April (M&AC et al.); more unexpected was one in El Paso 19 Mar (JPa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Three reports of Greater Pewee in Big Bend and the Davis Mts. 19–21 May will be reviewed by the TBRC; there are only seven accepted Texas records. An *Empidonax* fitting the description of a Dusky Flycatcher was studied in Ft. Worth, well away from its normal migration route, 6–9 May (†MR, JWS). In a repeat of last year, a territorial male **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** appeared in the Davis Mts. 23 Apr (†, ph., KB, MAd, JKa). Stay tuned for the summer report for more news on this 2nd Texas record. A pair of Black Phoebes returned to Anzalduas 13 Apr (TBr), and 2 Say's Phoebes lingered in *Delta* until 6 Apr (MWh). Vermilion Flycatchers made quite a showing in nw. Texas: 4 birds were reported from Lubbock up to Palo Duro and Buffalo L. 6 Mar–29 May (m.ob.). A pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers was well-documented in Big Bend's Chisos Mts. 29 Apr+ (LyS, DF, m.ob.). Out-of-range Brown-crested Flycatchers were at Lubbock 20 Apr (†AF, ERo) and Ft. Davis 6 May (KB). Great Kiskadees continue to surprise us with their unexpected wanderings; reports came from Port O'Connor 23 Apr–6 May (JA, BrF), *Chambers* 26 Apr (BSu, BaL), and Concan, *Uvalde*, 1 May (JO, KE). Providing about the 10th state record, a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** was at Falcon Dam 29 Apr (†, ph., MRo). Tropical Kingbirds returned to Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground 30 Apr (SS); another was seen and heard on the Bolivar Pen. 10 May (JSt, RMa). Tropical Kingbirds continue to be found in more locations in the L.R.G.V. and appear to be

expanding westward (m.ob.). A silent Couch's/Tropical Kingbird was in Ft. Davis 6 May (KB); neither species had been recorded there previously. The most far-flung Couch's Kingbird of the season was one at Quintana 5 May (CR, MG). Rose-throated Becards returned to Anzalduas 3 Mar+ but no signs of nesting were noted. We received a belated report of a male becard in Los Fresnos, *Cameron*, 27–29 Jan (ph. JRos, AH), the first documented in that county in well over half a century.

A Northern Shrike was discovered 20 Mar in *Denton* (LyB). Three White-eyed Vireos showed up in the Panhandle 17–30 Apr; there were also three reports of Bell's in that area 9 Apr–24 May. A pair of Black-capped Vireos returned again to their singular outpost in n.-cen. Texas in *Montague* in March (WM). Three reports of Plumbeous Vireo came from the Edwards Plateau, where its status is poorly documented. Two interesting Cassin's Vireo reports came in: one at Corpus Christi 19 Mar (ph. J&BRi) and another in Government Canyon, *Bexar*, 2 May (ML). A Blue-headed Vireo at Big Bend Ranch 28 Apr (JDa) was well to the w. of its expected migration route. Gallucci found a Hutton's Vireo near Kerrville again this year 24 Mar+. A Warbling Vireo in *Angelina* 18 Mar was unusually early (J&BP). A bit on the rare side were Philadelphia Vireos at Lubbock 28 Apr (KD) and at Buffalo L. 18 May (EK, RSc et al.). At the early edge of their arrival period, a Red-eyed Vireo showed up in *Brazos* 19 Mar (SBr, KK). A nice find was a Yellow-green Vireo at Port O'Connor 13 May (†BrF). A cooperative Black-whiskered Vireo sang at the Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary 2–19 May, the first for *Brazoria* and about the 16th for Texas (†C&OB, RWe et al.).

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS

A distressed-looking Blue Jay was at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 14 May (KB). Blue Jays were confirmed nesting in the L.R.G.V. for the first time, at Edinburg (TBr). Two family groups of Brown Jays were seen occasionally in *Starr*; it is good to see continuing reports of this species at its only toehold in Texas. At least one of the Black-billed Magpies in the n. Panhandle from the winter season was noted as late as early April (MAd). Another was briefly described from *Gray* 24 Apr (TGi), about three counties s. of the *Hansford* site. Fish Crows were below the dam at L. Tawakoni, *Rains/Van Zandt*, 5 Apr and 25 May, the farthest to date upriver on the Sabine (MWh, BSt). Tree Swallows were detected nesting in *Harrison* for the second year in a row (GLu, EdR); substantially farther to the sw. was a pair thought to be nesting at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell*, 14 May+ (RPi). A migrant Violet-green Swallow was a good find 11 May at Buffalo L. (BH, LG). A first *Dallas* Cave Swallow was at S.S.W.T.P. 14 May (MWh); others were at L. Tawakoni 20 & 25 May (BSt, MWh). Frenz made a thorough survey of *Brazos* 25 Apr and encountered 84 Cave Swallow nests; there had only been two previous nesting reports there.

White-breasted Nuthatches were confirmed breeding near Granger, *Williamson*, 2 May, when young were noted (TFen). We had three late Red-breasted Nuthatch reports the first week of May, the southernmost in *Bastrop* (BrF) and the latest 5 May in *Smith* (PBa). Two Winter Wrens were very late: at Big Bend 10–11 May (NBl et al.) and in Amarillo, *Randall*, 23 May (RSc). *McMullen* is a bit out of the previously known range of the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher; Eubanks had one there 8 May, which may represent a new breeding location. Two rare thrushes for the Panhandle were encountered: a Veery in Amarillo, *Randall*, 8 May (EK, RSc) and a Gray-cheeked at Buffalo L. 14–24 May (RSc, KS). Well-described Gray-cheekeds were at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend 20 Apr (DO) and at Panther Junction 8 May (MF). Nesting Clay-colored Robins were reported once again at Anzalduas and Santa Ana (m.ob.). A Sage Thrasher in Big Bend 11 May was the latest ever for the park (ML).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

After the 1 May storm, 21 warbler species were detected in the cen. Brazos Valley. Substantial inland tallies included 50 Tennessees in Longview 28 Apr and again 2 May (GLu et al.), 50 Magnolias 2 May in Nacogdoches (DW), and 45 Black-throated Greens 1–2 May in w. *Bexar* (ML). Launching into a long list of interesting warblers, we had: Blue-winged at Big Bend 11 May (RHe); Golden-wingeds at Lubbock 23 Apr (AF), Amarillo 2 May (RSc), and Balmorhea 20 May (RD); Tropical Parulas in *Calhoun*, 5 Mar (PH, BrF), at High I. 12 Mar (DVe), 3 on the Devil's R., *Val Verde*, in late Mar (TG, EB), at Hill Country S.N.A. 6 Apr–21 May (ML et al.), and at Big Bend's Sam Nail Ranch 19–20 May (DKa et al.); Black-throated Blue at Lubbock 23 Apr (AF), the Davis Mts. 26 Apr & 18 May (LyB, B&MW), and Big Bend (Panther Junction) 18–21 May (m.ob.); Townsend's at High I. 23–25 Apr (KeH, KG et al.); at least 11 Hermits in the Chisos Mts. 20 Apr–13 May and one in the Davis Mts. 23 Apr (MAd, KB); Blackburnian in the Davis Mts. 22–23 May (WF); Yellow-throated at Big Bend 18 May (RD) and Midland 29 May (DK); Prairie at Lubbock 13 Apr (JB); Palms at Big Bend Ranch 28–29 Apr (JDa) and Lubbock 10 May (RKo); a Cerulean at Dallas in early May (KC) and a remarkable *9* in *Bastrop* 3 May (BrF); Prothonotaries at Lubbock 8 Apr (AF), Panther Junction 16 Apr (MF), Balmorhea 20–26 Apr (BBe, TJ), and Sam

Yet another amazing find on an offshore oil platform was Texas' seventh Brown Noody. This apparent subadult was captured on film the second day of its 27 April–1 May visit to the platform. ***Photograph by Alan Wormington***

Nail Ranch 22 Apr (DO); three Worm-eatings at Big Bend 16–28 Apr (m.ob.), one at Lubbock 2 May (RKo), and one at Ft. Worth 4 May (MR); Swainson's at V.C.D.B. 2 May (MR) and Buffalo L. 5 May (BiMc, RSc, PT); Ovenbird at El Paso 1 May (JZ); Mourning at Buffalo L. 24 May (KS); a surprising 8 Hoodeds in the w. third of the state 20 Apr–17 May (m.ob.); and Painted Redstarts at Marathon 9–10 Mar (ATe) and El Paso 10 Mar (JZ, MS) and 25–27 Mar (SH, JPa). Other interesting warbler reports (mostly non-migrants) included a singing Colima Warbler refound in the Davis Mts. 7 May+ (KB, Jka), a repeat of last summer's record. A weird-looking warbler at Big Bend 7 May was variously described as a possible Tropical x Northern Parula hybrid or, strangely, a Tropical Parula x Crescent-chested Warbler (RW, JMu). A Golden-cheeked Warbler 2 Mar at Ft. Hood (*fide* JC) tied the earliest arrival date. Two reports of Connecticut Warbler, in *Brazoria* and at Austin, both 6 May, were written up for the TBRC (JLe, AS); there are only seven accepted records for the state, despite many undocumented reports. A **Gray-crowned Yellowthroat** singing cooperatively at Santa Ana 24 Mar+ was thoroughly documented (m.ob.); there are only about six well-documented records since 1900. Freeman and Hockey heard an unfamiliar warbler song at Ft. Lancaster, *Crockett*, 6 Apr; Freeman's tape-recording is suggestive of Fan-tailed Warbler, not previously reported (or even suspected) in the state. The Rufous-capped Warbler banded last summer at Devil's R. returned this year in March, singing on territory, and was joined by a second bird 12 May (*fide* JKa). Another was at Green Gulch in Big Bend 1 May (RW). A Scarlet Tanager was out-of-place in the Davis Mts. 29 Apr (M&ME); six reports from interior e. Texas were more than usual.

SPARROWS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

A Cassin's Sparrow was photographed in *Delta* 10 May (MWh), 150 mi e. of its normal range, providing a first county record. East Texas produced many more reports of Clay-colored Sparrows this season, with small flocks detected in *Gregg*, *Harrison*, *Hunt*, *Nacogdoches*, and *Smith*, 25 Apr–26 May (m.ob.); one also showed up inexplicably on an oil rig off *Brazoria* 24 Apr (SP). A male Lark Bunting probably provided a first *Calhoun* record 15 Apr–7 May (JA, BrF, PH). An unfortunate Baird's Sparrow was a roadkill in Big Bend 25 Apr (LE, * to Big Bend); there were also single reports in May at Rio Grande Village and Ft. Davis (RW, JMu, KB). One to two Henslow's Sparrows were studied by many in *Brazos* 13–31 Mar (KK et al.); the latest reported in e. Texas was in *Montgomery* 1 Apr (Dve) and a great find was the Panhandle's first in *Oldham* 6 May († EK, RSc, BaP). Singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows lingered to 21 May at Anahuac (JSt, PM). Seaside Sparrows were confirmed as still being present in salt-marsh at the mouth of the Rio Grande at Boca Chica (JA). A Swamp Sparrow in *Freestone* 20 May was late for e. Texas (Pba). Other late sparrows included a White-throated 22 May in Nacogdoches (DW) and a Harris's 23 Apr in Waco (EGW). A rare Golden-crowned Sparrow visited Levelland, *Hockley*, 2 May (YLeS). A Pyrrhuloxia was on the U.T.C. at Quintana on the weird date of 30 May (CB). A Blue Grosbeak in *Angelina* 26 Mar (NBi) was early, as was a Painted Bunting 28 Mar in *Smith* (AB) and an even earlier Indigo Bunting 4 Mar in *Marion* (TW). There were certainly more Lazuli Buntings this season eastward; they were "too numerous to count" (over two dozen sightings) in n.-cen. Texas and there were three reports in e. Texas in *Austin*, *Cass*, and *Jones*, most between 26 Apr–3 May.

A collection of 1200 Dickcissels in *Freestone* 8 May was quite a concentration (PBa). Two Rusty Blackbirds in Lubbock 9–18 May (RKo et al.) were a good find. Common Grackles made a couple of unusual appearances in w. Texas, with a group of 40 in Balmorhea 6 Apr (KB, BGi) and a lone bird at Big Bend 21 Apr (PAb, MR). Despite being abundant throughout most of Texas, a pair of Great-tailed Grackles in Lufkin 26 May provided a surprising first *Angelina* record (NBi, LB, GG). Only the 3rd for the Panhandle or South Plains was a Bronzed Cowbird in Lubbock 29–30 Apr (RKo et al.). A Hooded Oriole snuck a little far up the coast to Tivoli, *Refugio*, 6 May (BrF). Quite unexpected, a male Red Crossbill visited a Kerrville feeder 12 May (JHo).

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES

Masked Duck at Santa Ana in April and May, Lewis's Woodpecker in Canyon in May, Connecticut Warbler at Nacogdoches in April, Red-faced Warbler in Big Bend in May, Yellow-eyed Junco in Big Bend in April, Blue Bunting at Falcon Dam in April, and Shiny Cowbird in *Brazoria* in April.

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idaho-western montana

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Spring 2000 was decidedly mild, featuring warm and dry weather in March and April, and average conditions through May. Most low-elevation areas were already snow-free because of the warm winter, and runoff from last winter's average to high mountain snowpack peaked early. The main theme of the season was the early arrival of waterfowl and other early spring migrants, some by as much as three or four weeks. Like last year, Camas National Wildlife Refuge produced a tantalizing list of vagrant warblers and other birds.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, ID); C.N.W.R. (Camas N.W.R., *Jefferson*, ID); L.M.N.W.R. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., *Ravalli*, MT).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Especially rare in spring, a Yellow-billed Loon was in *Fremont*, ID, 21 May (KDu, KH). Sightings of American White Pelicans continue to increase in the Region's far north, with ≤18 tallied in *Kootenai*, ID, 19–29 Apr (LH, RY) and one in Salmon, ID, 28–29 May (HR). Reports of extralimital egrets included single Greats at L.M.N.W.R. 14–21 Apr and 18 May (WT) and *Sanders*, MT, 3 May (WL), and a Snowy in Salmon, ID, 13 May (HR). Cattle Egrets also wandered in Idaho, with 3 each in *Gooding* 18 Apr (KF) and *Camas* 27 May (PWP). The Green Heron that stopped at C.N.W.R. 20 May (RM) was a good find; they are less than annual in the Region. White-faced Ibises are rare but increasing in the Region's far north, so 1–6 at L.M.N.W.R. 11 Apr–18 May (WT), two in *Nez Perce*, ID, 4 May (DBe), and 19 in *Broadwater*, MT, 27 May (DS) were particularly noteworthy.

Tundra Swans visited Idaho in unusually high numbers, with *1571* in *Kootenai* 18 Mar (LH) and *500* in *Blaine* 18 Mar (DR). A Mute Swan in *Jefferson* 18–20 Mar (BD, D&EF) followed a recent trend of sightings in e. Idaho. Snow Geese staged in impressive numbers again this year, with an estimated *50,000* in *Jefferson*, ID, 3–18 March (m.ob.). Ross's Geese, usually reported in small numbers, migrated through in force, with flocks of *125* in *Payette*, ID, 8 Apr (CB, RLR), at least 69 in *Fremont*, ID, 9 Apr (CW), and 30 in *Flathead*, MT, 2 May (DC).

Reports of Eurasian Wigeons almost *tripled* those of last year, with totals of 16 in Idaho and 10 in Montana. A Common Teal at L.M.N.W.R. 28 Mar–20 Apr and a Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal there 15–20 Apr (WT) were rare finds. Larger than usual concentrations of ducks also staged at several locations, including 811 Northern Pintails in *Kootenai*, ID, 18 Mar (LH), 140 Canvasbacks in *Blaine*, ID, 7 Mar (MCr), >100 Canvasbacks in *Park*, MT, 4 Apr (JP), and >400 Ruddy Ducks in *Ada*, ID, 21 Apr (RLR, DT). A pair of Greater Scaup at

L.M.N.W.R. 15–16 May (WT) and a Harlequin Duck in Missoula, MT, 14 May (MH) were locally rare. Long-tailed Ducks are not typically reported in spring, so singles in *Lake*, MT, 21 Mar (RF), *Power*, ID, 16–25 Mar (MCr), *Shoshone*, ID, 25 Mar–29 Apr (LH), and pairs below A.F.R. dam 2 Apr (MCr) and in *Lewis and Clark*, MT, 20–21 May (GH, ST) were interesting.

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** in *Valley* 8 Apr (CS) was Idaho's 8th and Latilong 12's first.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Three seasonally rare American Golden-Plovers stopped in *Park*, MT, 13 May (JP, MS). Black-necked Stilts are rare but increasing in the Region's n. half, and this year ≤13 stopped at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID, 11 Apr–7 May (m.ob.); singles were reported in *Lake*, MT, 11 Apr (CP), at L.M.N.W.R. 15–17 Apr (WT), and in *Lemhi*, ID, 5 May (CK). Large numbers of shorebirds staged at Indian Creek Res., *Ada*, ID, including 150+ American Avocets 21 Apr, 108 Marbled Godwits 22 Apr, and 100+ Long-billed Dowitchers 5–8 May (RLR, DT). One–four Long-billed Dowitchers in *Blaine*, ID, 7–16 Mar and another in *Power*, ID, 16 Mar (MCr) were several weeks early. An incredible flock of 8 **Hudsonian Godwits** at A.F.R. 7 May (†DB) provided Idaho's 5th record. The Dunlin that wintered near Belgrade, MT, was last seen 4 Mar (JP). Always rare, Short-billed Dowitchers visited Idaho in *Ada* 5 May (RLR), *Nez Perce*, 5 May (BJ), and *Gooding* 14 May (KF). A **Red Phalarope** in *Bear Lake* 22 Apr (†TK) furnished Idaho's 9th record.

Now annual but still unusual in n. Idaho, Franklin's Gulls were reported at Mann L. 21 & 27 May (BJ). The lineup of rare gull visitors to the Region included a Mew in Boise 1 Apr (RLR, DT), a Glaucous-winged in *Owyhee*, ID, 15–16 Apr (CW), and three Glaucous in w. Montana 2 Mar–4 Apr (DC). A count of 56 Herring Gulls in Pocatello, ID, 2 Mar (MCr) was likely a record high for s. Idaho. Rare outside of se. Idaho, single Common Terns visited Mann L. 21 May (BJ) and Indian Creek Res. 21 May (JG). Band-tailed Pigeons were more numerous than usual, with singles in *Gem*, ID 8–26 Apr (DD), *Clark*, ID 7 May (GR), *Ada*, ID 16 May (JC), and East Glacier, MT, 31 May (LB).

Chuck Trost estimated that over *200* Barn Owls were killed this spring along a 45-mi section of Interstate 84 in s. Idaho. Owls that strayed included a Barn in *Ravalli*, MT, 3 May (TM) and a Barred in *Twin Falls*, ID, 11 Mar (MT). A Western Kingbird reported in *Ada*, ID, 25 Mar (RM) was a month early. Like last year, a Least Flycatcher came home to C.N.W.R. 19–31 May (MCr). One of the best birds of the season, a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in *Bonneville*, ID, 16 May (MF), was Idaho's 7th.

JAYS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Blue Jay nest with dependent young in Kalispell, MT, 30 May (DC) represented only the 3rd breeding record in the Region. In Idaho, there is no confirmed Blue Jay breeding record, so a report of a pair that visited a residence in *Bonner* (RD) all season was interesting. Swallows were three-four weeks early this year, with 25 Tree Swallows in *Blaine*, ID, 8 Mar (SB), a Cliff Swallow at L.M.N.W.R. 6 Apr (WT), and a Barn Swallow in *Blaine*, ID, 25 Mar (D&EF). Reports of Northern Mockingbird were down in Idaho, with only singles observed in *Butte* 27 Apr (BD) and *Oneida* 18 May (JS).

Rare warblers reported at C.N.W.R. this spring included a Virginia's Warbler 14 May (MCr), Idaho's 2nd **Northern Parula** 27–28 May (MCr, GR, m.ob.), a Chestnut-sided Warbler 29 May (GS), a Magnolia Warbler 30 May (GR), and Black-throated Gray Warblers 6 & 14 May (MCr, GR). In sw. Idaho, another Black-throated Gray strayed to *Elmore*, ID, 14 May (CS), and a rare Black-and-white Warbler stopped in Boise 14 May (DH). Northern Idaho's **Pine Warbler** successfully overwintered in Moscow and was last seen 4 Apr (RH).

Sparrows that overshot their ranges in s. Idaho included 2 Green-tailed Towhees in Boise 1–5 May (DH, RLR, DT) and 2 Black-throated Sparrows near Boise 13 & 24 May (JC, RLR). A major irruption of Lark Buntings in e. Idaho this spring consisted of small flocks scattered throughout at least six counties. Often unreported in spring, Golden-crowned Sparrows made a surprising showing, with a total of 8 reported throughout Idaho. Rare grosbeak sightings in Idaho included 2 Rose-breasteds in *Custer* 23 May (*fide* CT) and a Blue in *Ada* 29 May (FV). Especially rare in spring was a pair of Rusty Blackbirds in *Butte* 7 Apr (D&EF). Outside of their usual locations in *Canyon*, single Idaho Great-tailed Grackles showed up in *Jefferson* 14–20 Apr (m.ob.) and *Gooding* 14–25 May (KF). Reports of Common Grackles were up from last year, with many sightings from seven e. Idaho counties and at least two locations in w. Montana. Away from their local Idaho range in Boise and Pocatello, Lesser Goldfinches were seen below A.F.R. dam 1 Mar–15 Apr (MCr, CT) and in *Blaine* 24 & 28 May (*fide* PWP).

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Moisture in the Region was marked by a wet March, later becoming quite dry, especially in southern areas. In e. Colorado, temperatures warmed early, most trees were fully leaved by early May, and record 100°F highs were recorded in May. Weather fronts and the jet stream stayed north of normal, allowing birds to move through but not holding them for more than a day or two.

The highlights of the reporting period from Nevada were (1) a better-than-average presence of vagrants at the desert oases in the south, (2) an unprecedented passage of Vaux's Swifts in the Reno area and elsewhere, and (3) good numbers and variety of shorebirds in the Lahontan Valley (although no Regional rarities). Colorado had two first state records, a Slaty-backed Gull (seen by hundreds) and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.

Abbreviations: C.C. (Cottonwood Canyon, *Baca/Las Animas*, CO); C.V.C.G. (Crow Valley Campground, Pawnee National Grasslands, *Weld*, CO); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, *Clark*, NV); H.P.R.A. (High Plains Research area, near Cheyenne, WY); H.R. (Hereford Ranch, near Cheyenne, WY); F.C.R.P. (Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso*, CO); L.V. (Lahontan Valley, w. NV); S.L.V. (San Luis Valley, CO); S.W.A. (State Wildlife Area); W.R.G. (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt, *Jefferson*, CO). Because the majority of reports received in the Region come from Colorado, we are using site and county names for Colorado to save space; other sightings list the state (except for Carson L., Pyramid L., and Walker L., all in Nevada). Most rarities were seen by many birders, so only the person(s) who found or identified it first, or reported the bird to us, are included (except for major rarities).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Rare in spring, an ad. Red-throated Loon was in *Bent* 3–21 May (CF, BKP). The wintering Yellow-billed Loon at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo*, stayed to 19 Mar (v.o.); an ad. was at Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, 25 Mar–28 Apr (BM, ph. †GWL). At least one Least Bittern was at John Martin Res, *Bent*, 14–15 May (BKP, MJ). Rare in w. Colorado, single Great Egrets were in *Mesa* 7 Apr (TL, RLd) and *Delta* 27–28 May (TL). Five Little Blue Herons were reported in e. Colorado 5–26 May. Single Green Herons were at Oxbow Park, NV, 22 Apr (TF) and Rancho San Rafael Park, NV, 7 May (FP). Colorado's 3rd **White Ibis** was at Barr L., *Adams*, 19–30 Apr (EY, JD, TL, m.ob.). Nine Glossy Ibises were reported from e. Colorado 8 Apr–23 May (v.o.); most unusual was one in w. Colorado near Edwards, *Eagle*, 24 Apr (BBe, †JMe). A 17 May aerial survey of White-faced Ibis in the L.V. produced 1873 pairs (BH, LN), down 55% from last year.

WATERFOWL

A *nigricans* **Brant** was at Swan L., NV, 18–21 May (TF, KM, m.ob.). The wintering Eurasian Wigeon in Pueblo stayed to 21 Apr. Blue-winged Teal in Nevada were at Carson L. 11 Apr (TF, JL), Washoe L. 7 May (GS), Soda L. 14 May (TF), and S-Line Res. 20 May (MM). Colorado had a large invasion of Greater Scaup, with possibly record numbers—1000 at Barr L. 22–29 Mar (TL, DF). A male **Tufted Duck** was found at Barr L. 28 Mar (†KS), the 2nd for Colorado. Four Surf Scoters appeared in e. Colorado 26 Mar–17 May. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers was noted at Walker L. 19 Mar (GS, DS) and 2 more were found at Pyramid L. 26 Mar (DS). A high count of 3000 Ruddy Ducks was in *Weld* 13 Apr (JF).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Red-shouldered Hawk in *Arapahoe* stayed until 12 Mar (IS, DQ, KS); an imm. was at Floyd Lamb S.P., NV, 17 Mar–2 Apr (RPS) and another was present until 28 May at Mormon Ranch, NV (BL). A Peregrine Falcon was noted at Carson L. 13 May (v.o.). The introduced Ruffed Grouse in Nevada were noted in the Santa Rosa Mts. 13 May (JW). A pair of Virginia Rails were noted in Morgan, UT, 8 Apr (VAS, LSm), providing the first area record. More Black Rails than usual were reported from se. Colorado, with ≤17 in *Bent* 29 Apr–26 May (DQ, BKP) and 2 in *Otero* 23 May (SO). The first **Common Moorhen** reported in Colorado since 1993 appeared at John Martin Res. 7–21 May (SSe, m.ob.).

An American Golden-Plover was in *Kiowa* 9–10 May (TL). In Nevada, 2 Solitary Sandpipers were at Carson L. 25 Apr–6 May (LN) and one at S-Line Res. 26 Apr (TF, LN). Eight Upland Sandpipers were reported in e. Colorado 29 Apr–7 May (v.o.). Thirty-four Whimbrels passed through e. Colorado 23 Apr–20 May and a flock of 30 was in *Yuma* 13–14 May (BR, DFO); one was at Carson L. 6 May (GC). Single Hudsonian Godwits were in *Prowers* 16 Apr (CLW, TL, MJ, BKP) and *Yuma* 13–14 May (BR, DFO). A **Wandering Tattler** wandered inland to Antelope S.P., UT, 6 May (DPu et al.), providing one of the few Regional records. Ruddy Turnstone reports included one in *Bent* 6 May (MJ, BDk), 3 in *Kiowa* 8 May (FL), one in *Kiowa/Bent* 9 May (DN), and 2 at Soda L., Casper, WY, 13 May (CM). A Red Knot was at Carson L. 25–29 Apr (LN), with another

Posing as if to display their differences, this Yellow-billed Loon (left) and Common Loon (right) were photographed 16 April 2000. The Yellow-billed, a rare bird in the interior of the coterminous United States, remained on Big Johnson Reservoir near Colorado Springs, Colorado, 25 March–28 April. ***Photograph by Greg W. Lasley***

at Soda L., WY, 29 May (CM). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Soda L., NV, 29 Apr (MM, GS). Single Short-billed Dowitcher were reported from S-Line Res. 26 Apr (TF, LN); several *hendersoni* were in *Otero* 21 May (CLW, TL, LSe) and in *Weld* 22 May (NK). Colorado's first known displaying male **American Woodcock** was at Rocky Ford S.W.A., *Otero*, 13 Apr–10 May (SO, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A high count of 117 Bonaparte's Gulls was recorded in *Larimer* 25 Apr (SJD). Mew Gull sightings included an adult in *Boulder* late Feb–25 Mar (v.o.), an ad. in *Arapahoe* 6–13 Mar (GW), a second-basic in *Boulder* 13–14 Mar (BS, MS), a first-basic found in Dec was seen again at Barr L. 28 Mar (CLW), and another ad. in *Larimer* 31 Mar (SJD). Colorado's 2nd and 3rd records of **Iceland Gull** included a first-basic at Pueblo Res. 18–19 Mar (BKP, MJ, VAT, m.ob) and a first-alternate at Prince L. #2, *Boulder*, and near Erie, *Weld*, 9–26 Apr (JV, PGe, m.ob.). Other Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings included an alternate-adult in *Pueblo* 17–19 Mar (BKP), a second-basic in *Kiowa* 16 Apr (BBH), and a 4th-year in *Jefferson* 30 Apr (LSe). Three other Nelson's Gull reports included two imms. at Pueblo Res. 18–22 Mar (TL, DF, MJ, BKP) and one imm. in *Prowers* 9 Apr (BKP, MJ). An ad. **Western Gull** was photographed at L. Mead, NV, 8 May (J&MC). A first-year Great Black-backed Gull was in *Arapahoe* 10 Apr (BBr). A high count of 12 Caspian Terns was recorded in Colorado 15 Apr–28 May (v.o.), including a very early one in *El Paso* 25 Mar (BM). Five Common Terns were reported from L. Mead, NV, 8 May (J&MC).

New Eurasian Collared-Dove locations for e. Colorado include Swink, *Otero* (DD, *fide* DAL); Ovid, *Sedgwick*, 1 Apr (CLW, TL, LSe); Flagler, *Kit Carson*, 15 Apr (RSi); w. of Ft. Lyon, *Bent*, 16–21 Apr (KH, m.ob.); and Sterling, *Logan*, 22–23 Apr (SEM). A **White-winged Dove** at Casper, WY, 30 Apr–5 May (GL, JL) may provide the 2nd or 3rd state record. Four White-winged Dove were found in e. Colorado 29 Apr–13 May. It appears that **Inca Doves** are now *breeding* in Colorado. At least 7 were in Rocky Ford this spring, several of them nest-building (SO, m.ob.). Others were in Lamar, *Prowers*, 16 Apr (TL, CLW, MJ, BKP) and at Logandale, NV, 2 May (J&MC). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from Torrance Ranch 29 May (GS) and Tonopah 29 May (DT), both in NV. A Spotted Owl was heard in *Pueblo* 21 May (CLW, TL, LSe). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in C.C. 17 Apr (BBH). A Lesser Nighthawk was reported in Lamar 4–6 May (TM).

SWIFTS THROUGH JAYS

A rare spring Black Swift was reported in *Pueblo* 20 May (TL, CLW). A **Vaux's Swift** was observed in Reno, NV, 28 Apr (JA), and a remarkable 150+ were there 7 May (TF, KS); they were present through the end of the period and at least two pairs were observed in courtship display 30 May (TF). In the deserts, Vaux's Swifts were at Corn Creek, NV, 7 May (J&MC) and Dyer, NV, 18 May (J&MC). North of normal, a Costa's Hummingbird at Limerick Creek, NV, 4 May (JW). A Rufous Hummingbird in the S.L.V., *Conejos*, 20 May (JJR) and an ad. was at Rocky Mt. N.P. 2 Jun (S. Schulte). Two pairs of **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued at Durango, *La Plata*, 6 Apr (TL, RLd, CS) and one was in Beulah, *Pueblo*, 20 May (PH).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee was noted in *Otero* 2 May (SO) and another in *Bent* 13

SA The Horseshoe Lake area of Loveland, *Larimer*, was a gull haven this spring for rare and unusual gulls. Highlights included 11+ Thayer's Gulls, up to 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Colorado's first Slaty-backed Gull, a basic adult, 6 Mar–6 Apr (DCE, DAL, m.ob), 3 Glaucous-winged Gulls, including a second-basic found during the winter and remaining to 19 Mar, a first-basic 7 Mar (MJ), and another first-basic 29 Mar–3 Apr (vt. SMl, m.ob.), 4 Glaucous Gulls, a second-basic Nelson's Gull (hybrid Glaucous × Herring), and a Great Black-backed Gull. The lake may have had some winter kill fish or was a staging area for gulls.

May (RO, DQ). Colorado's first **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was singing at Pueblo 28–29 May (MJ, VJ). A Least Flycatcher was located near Tonopah, NV, 17 May (JB). Twenty-nine Black Phoebes were in w. Colorado in *Montrose* and *San Miguel* 7 Apr–8 May (TL, RLd, KP, DF). Colorado's first breeding **Vermilion Flycatchers** fledged one young in *Otero* 26 Mar–31 May (LZ, m.ob); a male Vermilion Flycatcher was at Holbrook Res., *Otero*, 1–5 Apr (FL, BKP, GR, WR). An early Cassin's Kingbird was at Corn Creek, NV, 16 Mar (CT) and a pair were at Dyer, NV, 21 May (MM, GS). At least two pairs of Eastern Kingbirds were in ne. Elko, NV, in late May (MP). A male **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was banded at Torrance Ranch, NV, 20 May (KV), and singles were in *Prowers* 4 May (JV) and *Pueblo* 16 May (†DSi). A Northern Shrike was noted at McClellan Mt., NV, 4 Mar (JE, TF).

A rare **White-eyed Vireo** was at Lida, NV, 21 May (MM, GS). Another four were in e. Colorado this season. Bell's Vireo sightings included singles in *Prowers*, *Boulder*, and C.V.C.G. A Yellow-throated Vireo was found in *Otero* 3 May (DSc). Cassin's Vireos were reported from Las Vegas, NV, 2 May (CT) and at C.V.C.G. 26 May (JR, DQ, RO, JV). A Blue-headed Vireo was in *Pueblo* 19 May (†DSi), and at C.V.C.G. 27 May (BBr, GR, WR). Rarely reported from w. Colorado, a singing Red-eyed Vireo in *Routt* 30 May (FL). Three were found at H.R. 24 May (CLW) and one was at Torrance Ranch, NV, 24–27 May (KV). Two Violet-green Swallows wandered e. to *Yuma* 18 May (DAL). American Crows continue to expand into se. Utah; a pair nested for the first time in Morgan 1 Mar–30 May (VAS).

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS

Rare in the S.L.V., a Bewick's Wren was in *Rio Grande* 20 May (JJR). Two Veeries and a Gray-cheeked Thrush were found at H.R. 24 May (CLW); four Gray-cheekeds were in e. Colorado. At least 3 Swainson's Thrushes were at Sunset Park, NV, 15 May (TF). Single Varied Thrushes were in *Huerfano* 11 Mar–6 Apr (RSc, PHi, DHi), *Boulder* 14–15 Mar (JY), Oxbow Park, NV, 29 Mar–2 Apr (TF, DY), and Pyramid L. 6 May (MM). A Northern Mockingbird was at Casper, WY, 12 Apr–31 May (CM).

Colorado birders recorded a total of 36 warbler species. Of the more regularly occurring species in Colorado, the following were reported: 11 Tennessees (1–21 May), 8 Nashvilles (20 Apr–22 May), 18 Northern Parulas (17 Apr–28 May), 8 Chestnut-sideds (6–27 May), 4 Magnolias (14–19 May), 5 Black-throated Blues (6–20 May), 9 Black-throated Grays on the plains (22 Apr–21 May), a single Black-throated Green (4 May), 4 Townsend's (23 Apr–12 May), 3 western Palms (30 Apr–21 May), 9 Blackpolls (4–24 May), 17 Black-and-whites (23 Apr–26 May), and 6 Hoodeds (20 Apr–23 May). Of the rarer species, reports included (all are singles, unless indicated): Blue-winged Warblers in *Bent* 28–30 Apr (RO, DQ), *Adams* 29 Apr (MAG), and in *Pueblo* 29 Apr (MY), 16 May (†DSi), and 20 May (BKP, LB, MJ). Golden-winged Warblers were at *Crowley* 5 May (BBr), *Baca* 7 May (BKP), C.V.C.G. 14 May (LR), and *Larimer* 15–16 May (SG, H&DF, JF).

In Nevada, Tennessee Warblers were at Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB), Indian Springs, NV, 28 May (MS, TW), and Casper, WY, 29 May (CM). In Nevada Northern Parulas graced Corn Creek 6–7 May (RPS) and 29 May (RPS), Torrance Ranch 7 May (KV), H.R. 20 May (CM, GJ), H.P.R.A. 20 May (CM, GJ), Tonopah 20–21 May (JB), Dyer 21 May (MM, GS), and Indian Springs 28 May (MS, TW). Wyoming's was at Fontenelle Dam 20 May (R&JS). Chestnut-sided Warblers were in Casper 10–14 May (CM) and H.R. 20 (GJ, CM) & 23 May (CLW). A male Magnolia Warbler and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler were at H.R. 20 May (CM, GL). A male Blackburnian Warbler was in *Larimer* 9 May (JMa), while a female turned up at C.V.C.G. 20–21 May (BBr, JF). A Grace's Warbler was singing in Rye, *Pueblo*, 7–10 May (DSi). Wyoming's 2nd **Prairie Warbler**, a male, was at Lion's Park in Cheyenne 18–20 May (GJ, CM, m.ob.). A male Prairie was in *Bent* 14 May (BKP, MJ). A male Pine Warbler was in *Prowers* 25–26 May (BKP, TB). The **Palm Warbler** found during this winter at Casper, WY, stayed to mid-Apr (AH). A Blackpoll Warbler was at H.R. 20 May (GJ). Single Bay-breasted Warblers were at F.C.R.P. 14 May (AV), *Prowers* 21 May (BKP), and C.V.C.G. 24 (CLW, JF), 25 (SEM), & 28 May (JR, DQ). Black-and-white Warblers were at Bodyfelt Ranch, NV, 20–27 May (v.o.) and Torrance Ranch, NV, 20–26 May (v.o.), and one was at Fontenelle Dam, WY, 26 May (R&JS). Four American Redstarts were at H.R. 24 May (CLW) and others were at six locations in s. Nevada 26–29 May (v.o.). Prothonotary Warblers were found in *Prowers* 22 Apr (RLz, NE, DQ, MJ) and *Otero* 21 May (SO). Worm-eating Warblers were reported in Colorado from *Otero* 1 May (TM), *Bent* 5 May (JK, SSt), *Washington* 7 May (JMa), C.V.C.G. 16 May (JHi, DM), and F.C.R.P. 19 May (MJ). A **Swainson's Warbler**, a Regional rarity, was reported from Nee Noshe Res., *Kiowa*, 30 Apr (GR, WR). An Ovenbird was at H.R. 20 (GJ) & 23 May (CLW); another was at Torrance Ranch, NV, 28 May (GS). Kentucky Warblers were reported at W.R.G. 14 May (NE) and in *Prowers* (GR, DAL). Mourning Warblers were in *Prowers* 4 May (BKP, TM), *Baca* 9 May (CLW, TL), *Jefferson/Douglas* 13 May (JK), *Prowers* 14 May (GR, WR, MJ), and *Bent* 14 May (CLW). Northern Waterthrushes were at Lion's Park, WY, 23 May (CLW), Bodyfelt Ranch, NV, 26–27 May (GS), and Dyer, NV, 26–27 May (GS). Single Hooded Warblers were at Tonopah, NV, 14 May (JB), Las Vegas, NV, 15–17 May (TF), Fontenelle Dam, WY, 26 (R&JS) & 27 May (FL), and Lida, NV, 28 May (JB).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hepatic Tanagers were reported from *Prowers* 14 May (DAL, CLW), Torrance Ranch, NV, 16 May (KV), and *Pueblo* 19 May (CLW, TL). A male Scarlet Tanagers in the S.L.V., *Rio Grande*, 20 May (JJR) was most unusual; others included singles in *Baca*, *Pueblo*, *Prowers*, and at C.V.C.G. The wintering Eastern Towhee at Penrose, *Fremont*, stayed to 16 Apr (RWa, JW, m.ob.). A Cassin's Sparrow was n. of normal at Torrington, WY, 21 May (CM). A Black-chinned Sparrow at Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB) was also unusually north. Single

Field identification of Thayer's vs. Iceland Gull is hotly debated, as is whether these gulls are actually separate species. In the East, the problem is telling a Thayer's from a dark Iceland; in the West, the problem is reversed. Some birds in the West, however, are sufficiently pale to allow reasonably confident identification, such as this apparent Iceland (note the whitish wingtips) in *Boulder* during April 2000. *Photograph by Christopher L. Wood*

Sage Sparrows were in *Pueblo* 23 Mar (BKP), *Douglas*, 4 (JK) & 6 Apr (CLW) and *Jefferson* 6–7 Apr (ph. CLW). Unusual in Utah, a Lark Bunting was at Red Hawk, *Summit*, 17 May (LLu).

Finally someone is birding sparrow habitat in far e. Colorado during sparrow migration. Searches yielded 6 Baird's Sparrows, which included 2 se. of Campo, *Baca*, 22 Apr (MJ, TL, CLW, DQ), and 4 n. of C.C., *Baca*, 30 Apr (DF, TL, CLW, DHa). Another Baird's was in *Mesa* 27 May (GW, GG). The wintering Le Conte's Sparrows at Ft. Lyon stayed to 25 Mar (v.o.). Three Fox Sparrows were in e. Colorado this spring, including ones of the eastern race in *Baca* 7–22 Apr (DAL) and *Teller* 10 Apr (RB), and one of the Rocky Mt. race in *Bent* 29 Apr (RK, BKP, RO). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Reno, NV, 1 May (FP), Tonopah, NV, 3 May (JB), Dyer, NV, 21 May (MM), and Torrance Ranch, NV, 25–26 May (v.o.). A Harris's Sparrow was near Tonopah, NV, 20 May (GS). Golden-crowned Sparrows were widespread and easy to find in nw. Nevada in early April (v.o.); this species clearly uses the western Great Basin and Sierra east slope more extensively than was previously documented. Also, an ad. Golden-crowned was in *Montrose* 22 Apr (GR, WR) and another was in *Baca*, 30 Apr (DF, DHa).

A male **Northern Cardinal** was at Amargosa Valley, NV, 19 May (J&MC). Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings included a pair at Corn Creek, NV, 15 May (MS); one banded at Torrance Ranch, NV, 16–29 May (GS, KV); one near St. George, UT, 17 May (VAS); one at Beatty, NV, 18 May (J&MC); and one at H.R. 23 May (CLW). An Indigo Bunting was at Reno, NV, 15 Apr (FP) and others were widely noted at the desert oases in s. NV 26–28 May (v.o.). A **Painted Bunting** wandered into Casper 8 May (GL), furnishing one of few Wyoming records; also rare were a female at Corn Creek, NV, 13 May (J&MC) and an ad. male in *Bent* 7 May (FL). A Rusty Blackbird was reported at Carson L. 29 Apr (LN, JP). A rare Common Grackle was near Torrance Ranch, NV, 22 May (JB). A Great-tailed Grackle was at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 27 Apr (CM, GL); another at Swan L., NV, 28 May (FP) was at a new location for this species. An Orchard Oriole was at the Mormon Ranch, NV, 23 May (BL, PSu) and a Hooded Oriole at Fallon, NV, 8–13 May (BH et al.) was n. of normal. A **Baltimore Oriole** was at Tonopah, NV, 20–21 May (JB). A **Common Redpoll** found dead at Torrance Ranch, NV, 21 May (KV) was well s. of normal and unseasonal. Lawrence's Goldfinches were noted at Lida, NV, 3 May (JB) and 27 May (DM, MS). A pair of Evening Grosbeaks reappeared at Incline Village, NV, 25 Mar–31 May (PS)

Western Gulls, like many other large are occurring with increasing regularity away from their normal range. This adult was photographed at Lake Mead Nevada, 8 May 2000, providing one of few records for the intermountain West.
Photograph by Marian Cressman

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arizona

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The most striking characteristic about the spring was just how dry it has been in Arizona. The drought is extending into a third year, likely to spell bad news for breeding birds throughout the state. Evidence of the severity of the drought trickled in during the spring: very late sparrows and warblers at migrant sites in the southeast and a plethora of lingering ducks. More striking though were Acorn Woodpeckers seen in the lowlands—and possibly attempting nesting in Phoenix! It will be interesting to see if widespread nest failure will be documented during the breeding season. The Arizona Atlas Project continued to provide interesting range extensions of a number of species, particularly Dusky-capped Flycatcher. It was a mediocre season for rarities, although gems such as White-rumped Sandpiper and Eastern Wood-Pewee can hardly be considered mediocre.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); P.A.P. (Pinal Airpark Pecan Grove); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant); W.W.D. (White Water Draw, Cochise),

GREBES THROUGH HAWKS

Although slightly outside of the period but no less exciting, a **Least Grebe** was found at the Sweetwater Wetlands, *Pima*, 3 Jun (GC, RS), providing only the 2nd state record for spring/summer. Extreme drought s. of the border in Sonora, Mexico (persisting now for at least three years), no doubt contributed to this occurrence, which is approximately 400 miles n. of the species' known nesting range. Individual Western and Clark's Grebes persisted into mid-May at several locations in the se.; both species were present at Willcox 19 May (CDB). Very interesting was the late American Bittern found 20 May at Kingfisher Pond (P. Davidson). Always of interest, a Little Blue Heron found along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix 24 Apr and another one at Willcox 3 Jun (GC, RS) were the only reported this season. Wood Storks do not usually make their appearance in the state until July, so 2 at Quitobaquito 1 Jun (ph. GC, RS) were early; this species is still considered casual at best in Arizona. Although Black Vultures are present throughout the year in the s. central part of the state, nests have been difficult to find. A nest with one large nestling at Patagonia 4 Apr (MS et al.) was only the 3rd ever found in Arizona.

A male Wood Duck was present in what appeared to be appropriate habitat for nesting in Buehman Canyon, *Pima*, 26 May (TC). A number of puddle ducks were present throughout the period; a female Bufflehead at Willcox 2 Jun (GC, RS) was very late. Migrant Long-tailed Ducks were found 27–28 Mar at Glen Canyon Dam (CTL) and at Parker Dam 7 Apr (*fide* SG). Three Common Goldeneyes along with 2 Barrow's were still present below Glen Canyon Dam on the late date of 31 May (CTL). In recent years, Gray Hawks have expanded their breeding range in s. Arizona. This year, pairs above San Carlos L. 3 Apr (JK), along the Gila R. below Coolidge Dam 4 Apr (JK), and a nest along Paige Creek, *Pima*, 11 May (RH, M. Coker) indicate a northward extension of its breeding distribution. Although it was suspected that a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** present at the Hassayampa R. Preserve last year might have nested, nesting was confirmed this year 20 Apr (RD et al), providing a 2nd state nesting record.

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists doing Yuma Clapper Rail (*R. l. yumanensis*) surveys saw and heard a Black Rail along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 29 Mar (L. Fitzpatrick), providing the first *Maricopa* record. A Clapper Rail was discovered at the confluence of the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers 2 May, while pairs were at Buckeye Valley 9 May and along Sisson Road near Gila Bend 10 May (DT). Spring American Golden-Plovers are always noteworthy in Arizona, with fewer than 10 records for the season. An individual still in basic plumage [or first alternate?-ed.] was at Whitewater Draw 26 Apr–7 May (D. West, †, ph. MS). A late Greater Yellowlegs was at Willcox 25 May

(GC, RS). Large concentrations of Whimbrels were discovered in a flooded field east of Yuma (DTa), with 18 found 20 Apr and 53 there 6 May. The latter count is probably the highest ever documented in Arizona. The most exciting shorebird of the season was the **White-rumped Sandpiper** at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. 16–18 May (ph. BZ, K. Zimmer, MS, m.ob.); there are still fewer than 10 acceptable records for the state. Several other spring shorebird records were also of note: 2 Dunlins at Green Valley 20-24 Apr, the only report (RP, T. Stuart); a Stilt Sandpiper at W.W.D. 6 May (MS); and Red-necked Phalarope reports of one at Willcox 7 May (MS) and 3 at Phoenix 28 May (RMJ).

A Laughing Gull at Marana 16 May (J. Hays, G. Hentz, L. Liese) was the only report we received of this casual visitor. Heermann's Gulls put in a nice showing this spring, with four reports 9–15 Apr: Patagonia L. 9 Apr (M. Brown), Nogales 11 Apr (DW), another (different age) there 15 Apr (B. Massey), and two at Ajo 10–13 Apr (*fide* TC, MS). During the last decade Least Terns have become a regular spring and early summer visitor in small numbers; this year individuals were reported at San Carlos L. 12 Apr (G. Hentz), Roper L. State Park 9 May (ph. J. Fowler), and Willcox 25 May (GC, RS). Late-staying Ruddy Ground-Doves were recorded at P.A.P. pecan grove 10–29 Apr (AS, TP et al), and the individual that spent the winter at a cen. Phoenix residence remained throughout the period (T.&S. Martin). An interesting report of 2–5 large all-black swifts from Mormon L. 13 May (J. Grahame) adds yet another sight report of Black Swifts for Arizona; there continues, however, to be no physical documentation for this species in the state. Berylline Hummingbirds returned again to Ramsey Canyon, with one on 19 May (BZ et al) and a pair building a nest 25 May (GC, RS). White-eared Hummingbirds returned to Miller Canyon 27 Mar (T. Beatty). A pair of Belted Kingfishers was seen feeding young in Oak Creek Canyon 30 May (CTL); there are still few documented nesting records this century for Arizona. Lowland records of Acorn Woodpeckers are mostly from late summer and fall, so one in Tucson 12–14 May (DW), another in Tempe 14–26 May (D. Keiser), and up to 5 on the campus of Arizona State Univ. throughout the period (JB, D. Stuart) were unusual and perhaps indicative of the severe drought we have been experiencing. The A.S.U. reports are most interesting because nesting behavior was observed on several occasions.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was seen and heard singing at Sunny Flats Campground in Cave Creek Canyon 2 May (J. Bock et al.) and, if accepted by the A.B.C., would represent only a 4th or 5th Arizona record. A Least Flycatcher was closely observed along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia 13 May (BZ, KZ); there are still only a handful of well-documented reports from the state. A late Eastern Phoebe was at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R., 3 May (JWh); there are very few true spring migrants from the Southwest. The Arizona Atlasing Project has greatly increased our understanding of Dusky-capped Flycatcher distribution in the state. This spring individuals were found away from known breeding areas at Fossil Creek, *Yavapai*, 5 May (TC), on Pinal Peak 23 May (RH), and near Peach Springs, *Mohave*, 26 May (P. Friederici). An intriguing report was received of a Great Kiskadee along Sonoita Creek 18 Mar (†B. Wooldridge); there are only two previous accepted records of this tropical flycatcher from Arizona, one of which is also from Mar. Always a nice find in the state, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R., 22 Apr (E.&J. Conrad) and at Ash Fork, *Yavapai*, 19 May (ph. J. Burton, E. Olds).

One of the best birds of the spring, a **White-eyed Vireo** was found in a yard near Portal 6-7 May (B. Rapoza, ph. MS; t.r. DS); there are fewer than 10 records from se. Arizona and photos obtained represent the first photographic documentation of this species in the state. A Red-eyed Vireo, still casual in the state during spring, was along the Santa Cruz R., Tucson, 25 May (RH). There have been relatively few documented nests of Tree Swallow for the state, therefore, a nest found at the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery 29 May (C. Wise, C. Land) was of great interest. The **Carolina Wren** at Cook's Lake along the lower S.P.R. last summer was present throughout the period. After the discovery of nesting Winter Wren along the Mogollon Rim in cen. Arizona last summer, a search of surrounding areas produced another individual 28 May (TC) ±10 mi from the original site. Individual Marsh Wrens at Whitewater Draw and Willcox, both 4 May (MS), were considered quite late. A female Black-capped Gnatcatcher was reported from Chino Canyon 18 Mar (RH) where there has been a well-documented female since 1996. There were a few reports of a male from that location, but with the presence since 1996 of a well-documented probable hybrid Black-capped × Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, any report of a male Black-capped from Chino must be documented.

The Rufous-backed Robin that wintered at Patagonia L. was seen through 15 Apr (MS), as was the one that wintered at the B.T.A. (M. Pollark). The only reports of Varied Thrush this spring were one from Tolleson 8 Apr (B. Grossi) and a female at Green Valley 4 Mar (B. Massey); this species is still a casual visitor to the state. A Gray Catbird was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 14 Mar (J. Bock) and an individual (same as during the winter?) at Portal was seen again 2–8 May (*fide* DJa). A late Sage Thrasher was reported from near Portal 7 May (DJa). A single Brown Thrasher was also near Portal 25 May (Dja); another that wintered in a Scottsdale yard was still present 15 Apr (J. Bartley).

WARBLERS THROUGH ICTERIDS

A Tennessee Warbler was located in cen. Tucson 23 Mar–6 Apr (MS, RH), a very early date for a spring migrant, so this individual may have wintered locally. At least 7 Northern Parulas, slightly more than usual, were reported from Arizona 23 Mar–30 May. The Chestnut-sided Warbler that wintered in cen. Tucson was last seen 12 Apr (RH). Outstanding in spring, a Magnolia Warbler was well-described from along Hospital Ridge, *Coconino*, 4 Jun (P. Sweet, B. Hedinger). Rarely seen in the lowlands during spring migration, a Grace's Warbler was in lower Aravaipa Canyon 15 Apr (MS); one in breeding habitat on Mt. Lemmon 19 Mar (J. Bock) was at least a week earlier than normal arrival dates. Palm Warblers, casual in the state during spring, were at Sipe Wildlife Area near Springerville 30 Apr (*fide* SG) and Whitewater Draw 2–4 May (T. Godfrey, ph. MS). At least six Black-and-white Warblers, about normal for spring, were located around the state 15 Apr–13 May. Similarly, 3 American Redstarts were found during May; of interest was one near Bylas, *Graham*, 9 May (B. Thatcher, C. Land), as we have received few bird reports from that region. Prothonotary Warblers have almost become rare-but-regular during the spring; this season, one was at St. David 5–6 May (ph. MS) and another was in Portal 10–14 May (S. Spofford, DJa). Two different Ovenbirds were reported this spring, one in Portal 7 May (*fide* DJa), and another in Harrison Canyon, *Cochise*, 12 May (S. Aemes). At least nine Northern Waterthrushes were reported statewide, all 1–18 May. Kentucky Warbler is much more likely in the state during May than any other month; this spring one was located in Oak Creek Canyon 11–19 May (H. Herlyn et al.) and another was in Portal

17–18 May (P. Wang, J. Haynes). Two MacGillivray's Warblers at Madera Canyon 29 May (RH) and another along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 31 May (RH) were late for spring migrants. Another warbler that is much more likely to occur during spring is Hooded Warbler; this season one was at Ramsey Canyon 16–17 Apr (D. Flower), a female was at Kino Springs 8 May (MS), and another was in Prescott 15–19 May (E. Moore, J. Morgan). The Rufous-capped Warbler in French Joe Canyon last winter was seen throughout the period, albeit sporadically.

An apparent Flame-colored × Western Tanager was present in Garden Canyon 15–16 May (ph. BZ, KZ, MS); this cross is interesting, as the only region where the two species potentially overlap is s. Arizona. The **Eastern Towhee** that wintered along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia was last reported 14 Mar (MS). Of great interest was the report of a Field Sparrow from Willow Tank 13 Mar (†R. Taylor); if accepted by the A.B.C., this would represent only a 4th Arizona record. Late were 2 Swamp Sparrows during May, one at Kingfisher Pond along the upper S.P.R. 3 May (JWh) and another, singing (!), along the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson 25 May (RH). No fewer than 9 White-throated Sparrows, most of which likely wintered, lingered into spring in se. Arizona, the last one being reported 8 May. A late Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Granite Cr. near Prescott 9 May (CST). The Lapland Longspur that was reported during the winter season from Vaca Ranch in the San Rafael Valley was last reported 4 Mar.

Five male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, about average, were seen around the state during Apr/May. Above-average numbers (8) of Indigo Buntings were reported around the state 11–29 May. Three Bobolinks were reported, one at Page 13 May (B.&K. Bobowski), a male in the Dome Valley, *Yuma*, (fide JW), and another male w. of Phoenix 28 May (M. Chew). Still considered casual in the state, May seems to be an excellent time for this species to occur in Arizona.

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new mexico

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The dry winter gave way to an even drier spring, culminating in some rather well-publicized fires in May, notably at Los Alamos. Generally poor water and poor cover conditions were the rule, and migrations of most groups (shorebirds, wood-warblers) were unspectacular. Nevertheless, remnant water bodies and scattered green oases attracted several genuine rarities.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque N.W.R. (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); N.R.T. (n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap near Melrose); P.O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A quiet loon season found a Pacific at Brantley L. 28 Apr (DE), a late Common at Nutria L. 27 May (DC), and another Common coping with a fishing lure in its bill at Roberts L. 5 May (MS, JZ); last season's **Yellow-billed Loon** was last seen at Cochiti L. 11 Mar (WH). An ad. male **Anhinga** put in a brief appearance at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Apr (JEP, JWM), providing the 3rd well-documented state record and the first since 1981. Increasingly rare, a single American Bittern was at Bosque N.W.R. 12–24 Mar (DE, BN, JEP); 1–2 were at B.L.N.W.R. 7–14 Apr (GW, JWM). High counts for Little Blue Herons were 2 each at Los Lunas 23–30 May (J. Kelly) and B.L.N.W.R. 21 Apr (GW, JWM). Always a rare treat, 1–2 Tricolored Herons were at B.L.N.W.R. 18 Apr–14 May (v.o., ph. JO). Single ad. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were at B.L.N.W.R. 20 May (JWM) and Clanton Cienega, *Hidalgo*, 13 May (NMC); undetailed was one at Ft. Sumner 6 Apr (S. Smith, *fide* PS). Ibises were much in the news, including ad. and imm. **White Ibises** at B.L.N.W.R. 11–26 May (JWM et al.); the adult was last seen 19 May (JEP, JO), the imm. 26 May (JWM). A **Glossy Ibis** attaining breeding plumage was at Bosque N.W.R. 21–22 Apr (JEP, DE, BN, ph. JO) and another (or the same?) in full breeding plumage was there 12–13 May (DE, BN, JO). High count for White-faced Ibises was 500 at Percha 21 Apr (MS, JZ). Some 1000 Snow and Ross's Geese were the victims of pesticide poisoning near Dexter 12 Mar (USFWS); carbofuran sprayed on alfalfa was the likely culprit. A female Barrow's Goldeneye was on the Rio Grande at Pilar 7 Mar (WW); the species is unexpected away from the San Juan R. An unusual, brown Ruddy-like duck was at the Deming sewage ponds 10 May (LM); details included black face mask and white eye ring but, apparently, no white in the wings.

Reports of White-tailed Kites have increased over the past decade, but nesting remained undocumented; this season found 2 (one perched on a nest) n. of the Cedar Mts, *Luna*, 11 Apr (RM), 2 near Hermanas 10 Mar (RM), 2 n. of Hachita plus a single nearby 19 Mar (RM), 2 at Glenwood 23–24 Apr (B&DM), and an undetailed one in *Chaves* in early May (*fide* SB). The three *Colfax* Bald Eagle nests each had nestlings 25–26 May (SOW). Only 2 Northern Goshawks passed the Sandia Mts. hawkwatch lookout this spring (HWI), down considerably from previous years. Peripheral Common Black-Hawks were singles n. to Isleta 3 May (J. Drummond) and e. to R.S. 11 May (SW). An ad. Harris's Hawk near Riverside 20–25 May (RSS) provided a Gila Valley first; in the

R.G.V., Harris's were n. to Williamsburg 7–21 Apr (JEP, JO, DE) and Percha 29 Mar (WW). At the Sandia lookout, 19 Broad-winged Hawks were counted 2 Apr–1 May (HWI); far w. was one at Mangas 4 May (ph. JNP). Noteworthy was a territorial Zone-tailed Hawk in Bear Trap Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 24 May (HS); meanwhile, a record 10 passed the Sandia lookout 25 Mar–5 May (HWI), raising questions as to just where they were headed. Single Rough-legged Hawks were above 8000 ft. in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. at Eagle Nest 4 Mar (JEP, JO) and Black L. 1 Mar (SOW); prairie-dogs were the likely attraction. Remarkable if accurate was a possible **Aplomado Falcon** cruising n. past the Sandia lookout 15 Mar (N. Vulgares); details were suggestive but the location was mystifying.

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

Four to five White-tailed Ptarmigan had roosted in snow at 12,450 ft on Kachina Peak 7 May (E. Rominger), providing further evidence of persistence of native stock in far n. New Mexico. Perhaps a result of favorable rains in 1999, Montezuma Quail were relatively numerous, with reports from the San Mateo, Mogollon, Pinos Altos, Burro, and Peloncillo Mts. (v.o.). Among the thousands of Sandhill Cranes migrating over Albuquerque 4 Mar were 3 Whooping Cranes (WH); these, the last of the discontinued experimental flock, were soon reduced to 2 when one collided with a powerline and died in Colorado (USFWS). An **American Golden-Plover** visited B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr–5 May (JWM, DE, JEP). Peripheral Snowy Plovers included 3 at E.B.L. 24 May (JO) and one at Lordsburg 5 May (JZ). Mountain Plovers noted in areas where rarely reported were 8 near Bernardo 23 Mar and 12 near Escondida 16 Mar (DH); late for the RGV were 2 at Los Lunas 26 May (DS), and w. of normal was a nest with eggs near Datil, w. *Socorro*, 28 May (S&NC). Willets passed through on a broad front 14 Apr–24 May (v.o.); highs included 34 at Los Alamos 5 May (J. Takamine), 30 at Moriarty 4 May (DE), and 32 near La Union 29 Apr (JNP). Notably early Long-billed Curlews were 6 at Moriarty 4 Mar (CR) and 7 at Vado 5 Mar (MS, JZ). Single **Whimbrels** were at Morgan L. 8 May (ph. TR) and B.L.N.W.R. 26 Apr (JWM) and 14 May (DE). Very rare, 1–2 **Hudsonian Godwits** were at B.L.N.W.R. 17–27 May (JWM, JEP, DE, ph. JO). High count for Sanderlings was 4 at EBL 24 May (JO); one at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel*, 13 May (CR) was a local first. Rare w. of the Pecos R., a Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Bosque N.W.R. 25 Apr (DE). On schedule, 2–5 White-rumped Sandpipers were at B.L.N.W.R. 23–27 May (WW, JWM, JO), but late were 5 Dunlins there 5 May (GW, JWM). High count for Stilt Sandpipers was 283 at B.L.N.W.R. 13 May (GW, JWM). A possible **Short-billed Dowitcher** was vocal among Long-billeds at B.L.N.W.R. 10 May (JWM). Common Snipe were winnowing at Springer L. 28 Apr (SOW). Rare in spring, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Bosque N.W.R. 9–13 May (DE, BN, JO).

Two ad. **Laughing Gulls** were at E.B.L. 24 May (JO). California Gulls found in areas where rarely reported were one at Ruby Ranch 13 May (CR) and 2 at Nutria L. 22 Apr. (DC). Eleven migrant Least Terns appeared at B.L.N.W.R. 9 May but were gone the following day (JBM); 4 local breeders arrived 19 May, increasing to 8 by 31 May (JBM). An early Least Tern was at Brantley L. 27 Apr (DE); w. was one at E.B.L. 24 May (JO).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Far e. was a Band-tailed Pigeon at Jal 6 May (JEP, ph. JO); far from normal habitat were 6 at Redrock 31 May (SOW). Eurasian Collared-Doves consolidated their grip on e. New Mexico, including ≤8 at Fort Sumner, 1–2 at Portales, ≤25 at Roswell, and 2–3 at Carlsbad (v.o.), plus one at Sumner L. 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and 3 at Lovington (ph. JO), 2 each at Eunice (ph. JO) and Jal (ph. JO) 20 May; w. were singles at Santa Fe 3 Apr (SOW) and Alamogordo 11 Apr (*fide* PS). Continuing their push n., 1–3 White-winged Doves were at Glenwood 29 Mar (SW) and 15–16 Apr (CR), near Mt. Taylor 27 May (HS), and at Galisteo 18 May (B & DF); one at Petroglyph N.M. 21 Apr (NV) provided a local first. North in the Pecos Valley was an Inca Dove at B.L.N.W.R. 19 May (JWM). Earliest Yellow-billed Cuckoo was one at R.S. 12 May (SW), where there were 3 on 20 May (JO); cuckoos found where rarely reported were singles at Taiban 27 May (JEP, JO), N.R.T. 21 May (JO), and Eunice 20 May (JO).

Whiskered Screech-Owls occupied 15 territories in four Peloncillo Mts. canyons 16–17 Apr (SOW), the highest count yet for New Mexico. North of expected was an Elf Owl at Roswell 7 Apr (ph. SB); the species has only recently colonized se. New Mexico. A Short-eared Owl was at B.L.N.W.R. 14 Apr (GW); another was nearly hit by a car n. of Hachita 19 Mar (RM). Far n. was a silent Lesser Nighthawk at Moriarty 28 Apr (JEP). A vocal Common Poorwill at Carlsbad 12 Mar (SW) was early. One–two Chimney Swifts were at Roswell 29 Apr and 19 May (JEP, DE); a pale, silent *Chaetura* at Luis Lopez 16 Apr (JO) was possibly a Vaux's, a species unverified in New Mexico. A Magnificent Hummingbird at Ruidoso 8 May (DE) documented the continuing presence of the species in se. New Mexico. Lucifers returned on schedule to P.O. Canyon 30 Mar (RTS), where 5 adults were captured 25–28 May (JDM). An ad. male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was seen at a Carlsbad feeder 19 May (SW); there are but 3 previous credible New Mexico reports, all in autumn. Representing post-breeding dispersal from farther w., 4 Anna's were at P.O. Canyon 13 May (RTS). Unexpected in spring, single male Rufous Hummingbirds were at Luis Lopez 3 Apr (JO), San Lorenzo 21 Mar (L. Garrison, *fide* D&MZ), and Las Cruces 25 Mar (*fide* LS). Two Lewis's Woodpeckers in the R.G.V. at Los Lunas 27 Apr (RC) were s. of normal; 2 at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts., 22 May (HS) were in an area where rarely reported. Wandering Acorn Woodpeckers included singles e. to *Curry* 13 May (J. Lofton) and R.S. 27 May (SW). Noteworthy was an imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Cedro Canyon, Manzanita Mts., 19 Mar (NV); late for the se. was a Red-naped at R.S. 1 May (JEP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES

A pair of Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets was tending a Guadalupe Canyon nest 13 May (AC); noteworthy was a probable tyrannulet n. to P.O. Canyon 30 Mar (RTS), as there are but 6 credible New Mexico reports away from Guadalupe Canyon. Very early was a Western Wood-Pewee in s. *Otero* 4 Apr (R. Rasmussen). Extremely rare, a singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was w. of normal at Clanton Cienega 13 May (NMC). Least Flycatchers typically are scarce in spring; 6 were at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and 2 were there 21 May (JO); singles were at Pep 21 May (JO) and R.S. 16 May (SW). Gray Flycatchers were much in evidence in the w. half of the state; high counts were 15 in Otero Canyon, Manzanita Mts., 25 Apr (HS) and 8 in the Burro Mts. 19 May (CR). Single Eastern Phoebes in potential breeding habitat were at Santa Rosa 2 May (WW) and Sumner Dam 5 May (JEP). A vocal Dusky-capped Flycatcher on Cherry Creek, Pinos Altos Mts., 7 May (S. Stoleson, *fide* D&MZ) furnished the 2nd *Grant* record. Unusually s. was an Eastern Kingbird in the R.G.V. at Bosque N.W.R. 13 May (DE, BN); w. of normal was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Cliff 19–20 May (RSS). Lingering Northern Shrikes were singles near Raton and Yankee 4 Mar (JEP, JO). Bell's Vireos n. of expected were one at Bosque Redondo 7 May (JEP) and 2 on Berrenda Cr. 5 May (CR). Two Gray Vireos were near Madrid 10 May (LAS),

where rarely reported. A Yellow-throated Vireo was w. of normal at Socorro 1–2 Apr (DH, ph. JO); another was singing at N.R.T. 7 May (JEP, ph. JO). Early Cassin's Vireos were singles at Socorro 2 Apr (JO) and Silver City 10 Apr (D & MZ). A Hutton's Vireo at Water Canyon 28 Apr (B&DF) was n. of normal. A Red-eyed Vireo on Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR) furnished a local first; other Red-eyeds were singles at N.R.T. 15 May (DE, BN), Anthony 30 Apr (JNP), and R.S. 6 May (JEP, JO).

Blue Jays staged a conspicuous movement through cen. New Mexico 20 Apr–8 May, with 3 at Los Alamos (R. Nelson), 2 near Ute Park (SOW), and singles at Cowles (J. Burton), Cochiti (MW), Albuquerque (J. DeLong), Tajique (PS), and Luis Lopez (JO); others west of usual were singles at Cimarron 4 Mar (JEP, JO) and Socorro 27 Mar (JS). Some 60 Pinyon Jays in the Gila Valley near Riverside 3 Mar (RSS) were at the s. edge of their range. Purple Martins where rarely noted were one near Velarde 25 May (CR) and a pair in Bear Trap Canyon 24 May (HS). About 35 Bank Swallows arrived at their Calabacillas Arroyo breeding site 23 Apr (NV). The Carlsbad Caverns Cave Swallow population was estimated at 1500 birds in May (SW); farther w. the species continued to thrive under *Doña Ana* bridges (MS, JZ, GE). Maintaining last year's beachheads, single **Carolina Wrens** were singing at Socorro's Riverine Park 2–21 Apr (JO, JEP) and R.S. 3 Mar–13 May (SW, NV, JO, JEP). Last of the Corrales Winter Wrens were 2 on 12 Mar (NV); another was on the Gila Middle Fork, *Catron*, 18 Mar (HW). Easterly Golden-crowned Kinglets were singles at Sumner Dam 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and N.R.T. 14 Apr (SOW), one was unusual in pinyons in the Sandia Mts. 21 Apr (WH); 6 singing in spruce-fir at Bear Trap Canyon 24 May likely were local breeders. Extremely early was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Petroglyph N.M. 2 Apr (HS); continuing their presence in sw. New Mexico were 2 Black-taileds at Redrock 31 May (SOW). A pair of Eastern Bluebirds feeding young in a cavity at Mesilla 11 Apr (J. Eidel) provided one of few breeding records for the lower R.G.V. A possible **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was seen at R.S. 27 May (SW); there is but one certain record for New Mexico.

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Long-billed Thrasher was singing at Bosque Redondo 11 Mar (JEP, JO) and 7 May (JO), where one has persisted since 1997. A singing Bendire's Thrasher was n. of usual in the R.G.V. to Caja del Rio, *Santa Fe*, 31 May (WW). At Eldorado near Santa Fe, a notice in the community newspaper requesting Curve-billed Thrasher sightings resulted in reports of 19 active nests by 1 May (DS); the species is a recent arrival to the area. An early Crissal Thrasher nest at Petroglyph N.M. fledged 2 on 9 Mar (HS), implying initiation of incubation by 10 Feb. Latest Cedar Waxwings were 3 at Coyote Creek S.P. 22 May (SOW, PM), one near Velarde 25 May (CR), and 3 at R.S. 27 May (SW). Small numbers of Phainopeplas were nesting at Luis Lopez by mid-May (JO) and the species was conspicuous n. to Socorro (JS) and Bernardo (RC); high counts elsewhere were 22 near Sunland Park 5 Apr (GE) and 48 at R.S. 13 May (SW), while far e. was one at Bell L., *Lea*, 20 May (JO). Two to five Olive Warblers were n. at Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., 28 Apr (B & DF) and 13 May (DE, BN) and 2 were at Springtime, San Mateo Mts., 29 Apr (B & DF); a nest with 2 nestlings was at Signal Peak, Pinos Alto Mts., 20 May (CR).

The wood-warbler migration was judged mediocre by most observers; nevertheless, 30 species were reported, including several rarities. Single **Blue-winged Warblers** were at Quaria 13 May (NV, HS) and B.L.N.W.R. 25 Apr (JWM); single **Golden-winged Warbler** were at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and sw. *San Miguel* 13 May (WW). Notably early Lucy's Warblers were 2 each in the Gila Valley near Riverside 17 Mar (RSS) and in the R.G.V. at Las Animas Cr. 18 Mar (JO); 1–2 were n. of normal in the R.G.V. to Luis Lopez 26–27 Mar (JO) and Socorro 2 Apr and later (v.o.). A remarkable Northern Parula season produced 13 individuals at 12 sites 31 Mar–31 May, with singles at Ruby Ranch (WW), Glenwood (D&MZ), Guadalupe Canyon (AC), Socorro (JO, DE, BN), Luis Lopez (JO), Bosque N.W.R. (DE), Leasburg (GE), Organ Mts. (C. Benkman), White Sands Missile Range, *Doña Ana*, (D. Holdermann), B.L.N.W.R. (JWM, SB), and R.S. (SW), and 2 at Moriarty (DE, JEP, ph. JO). Stray *Dendroica* included single Chestnut-sideds at Velarde 25 May (CR), Eldorado 5 May (vt. T. Streifert), Galisteo 18 May (B&DF), and Roswell 13 May (SB), a **Magnolia Warbler** at Ruby Ranch 13 May (CR), a possible **Pine Warbler** at R.S. 29 Apr (SW), and a Yellow Palm at Luis Lopez 8 May (JO). A Black-throated Gray at Silver City in Feb remained until 7 Mar (RWi, *fide* D&MZ). Early was a Grace's in the Sandia Mts. 8 Apr (HS). The high count for American Redstarts was 3 at N.R.T. 15 May (DE, BN); w. were singles at Silver City 15 May (D&MZ) and Columbus 29 May (CR). Other e. strays included 1–2 Black-and-whites at Velarde (CR), N.R.T. (WH), Waldrop Park, *Chaves*, (DE), and R.S. (DE, JO) 28 Apr–25 May, single Prothonotaries at Cochiti 29 Apr. (MW) and R.S. 19 May (SW), single Worm-eatings at N.R.T. 29 Apr–4 May (G. McDermott, DE), Portales 10 May (J. Kendall), and Las Cruces 26 Apr (LS), and single **Kentucky Warblers** at Tatum 29 Apr (DE), San Andres N.W.R. 26 Apr. (ph. M. Weisenberger), and Carlsbad 25 Apr (E. Pierce, *fide* SW). Another impressive season for Hooded Warblers produced a male at Corrales 23 Apr (WH) and single females 2–27 May at Ruby Ranch (CR), Moriarty (DE, BN), near Tolar (WW), N.R.T. (DE, JEP, ph. JO), and R.S. (SW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Easterly Hepatic Tanagers were a male at N.R.T. 12 May (WH) and a female there 13 May (JEP); unusual was one at Moriarty 27 Apr (DE). Northerly Summer Tanagers were one at Quarai 13–16 May (NV, HS) and 2 in Sandia Mts. foothills 28 May (NV). A male **Scarlet Tanager** graced R.S. 11 May (SW). Green-tailed Towhees were breeding 22 May in shrublands in the San Mateo Mts. at 7500 ft and above 10,000 ft (HS), but were absent from intervening elevations. High count for Field Sparrows was 4 at N.R.T. 14 Apr (SOW), including 2 in full song. Two Black-chinned Sparrows were n. to Orilla Verde 24 May (CR); 2 others were e. to Corona 27 May (JO). South were 3 Vesper Sparrows singing at Monica Cabin, San Mateo Mts., 23 May (HS). Surveys for **Baird's Sparrows** on Otero Mesa found only one 3 Mar but at least 17 (plus 30 unidentified *Ammodramus*) 30 Mar–12 Apr, including 11 Baird's 5 Apr (RM); good grass cover seemed key to this now-rare migrant's well-being, as birds were found only in ungrazed areas. Among the Baird's on Otero Mesa was a well-detailed **Le Conte's Sparrow** 5 Apr (RM). Late was a Fox Sparrow at Taos 13 May (RWe), as were single Swamp Sparrows at Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR) and Sunland Park 14 May (JNP). White-throated Sparrows remained in evidence, including one singing at Glenwood 15 Apr (CR); latest were 4 at Corrales 7 May (WH) and singles at Luis Lopez 8–9 May (JO) and Berrenda Creek 5 May (CR). Single Harris's Sparrows were at Maxwell N.W.R. 4 Mar (JEP, JO), Eldorado 9 May (B&DF), and Lordsburg 27 Mar (SW). Very late was a McCown's Longspur at Eunice 6 May (JEP, ph. JO); w. were 2 Chestnut-sideds at Split Lip Flats, *San Juan*, 4 May (ph. TR) and 6 at Zuni 11 Mar (DC).

Continuing a trend were two Northern Cardinals n. in the Pecos Valley to Santa Rosa 11 Mar (JEP); another was n. to Macho Creek, *Sierra*, 7 May (CR). Notably far n. was a Pyrrhuloxia at Sumner Dam 11 Mar (JEP). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at 10 locales from the R.G.V. east 30 Apr–25 May

(v.o.), including one in the rarely-visited Los Pinos Mts. 17 May (HS); w. were singles at Cedar Hill 15 May (ph. TR) and Water Canyon 13 May (DE, BN). A female Blue Grosbeak near Riverside 8 Apr (RSS) was a month ahead of schedule. Indigo Buntings were unusually common in the south (D&MZ, SW); singing Indigos encroaching on Lazuli turf in the n. were 3 at Farmington 9 May (TR), 2 at Orilla Verde 24 May (CR), and singles at Pojoaque 31 May (CR) and Santa Fe 21 May (B & DF). Very early was an Indigo x Lazuli hybrid at Corrales 26 Mar (WH). A male Varied Bunting was at R.S. 13 May (SW), where occurrence is irregular. Far w. was a Dickcissel on Berrenda Creek 6 May (CR). A pair of **Rusty Blackbirds** lingered at Percha 18 Mar (JEP, ph. JO) and the male was singing 24 Mar (DE), but neither were found thereafter. Far w. was a male Common Grackle at Zuni 29 Apr (DC). Bronzed Cowbirds occurred across the s. tier of counties after late March (v.o.); n. was a male at Carrizozo 28 May (ph. JO). A male Hooded Oriole wandered n. to Zuni 24 Apr (ph. DC). An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** was near Pep 13 May (LAS); the apparent Bullock's that overwintered at Carlsbad was last seen 8 Mar (SW). The only rosy-finches were at the Taos Ski Basin, where there were about 55 Blacks, 40 Brown-cappeds, and 25 Gray-crowneds 7 Mar (WW). Cassin's Finches were exceptionally scarce, as were Red Crossbills, while Pine Siskins were plentiful in the west but scarce in the east; a siskin was nesting at Signal Peak 21 May (RWi, *fide* D&MZ). The 5 Lesser Goldfinches at Corrales 12 Mar (WH) likely overwintered. American Goldfinches lingering in potential breeding habitat included one at Zuni 26 May (DC), 2 at Orilla Verde 23 May (CR), one near Velarde 25 May (CR), and 3 at Coyote Creek S.P. 24 May (SOW, PM). High count for Evening Grosbeaks was 47 at Taos 13 May (RWe); the species was decidedly scarce elsewhere.

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Widespread, systematic, and season-long coverage of the Region's outposts, combined with a decent inshore storm profile, produced one of Alaska's more exciting spring migrations in years. Even with the hiatus of a storm-free high-pressure period in late May, the western Aleutians once again rallied with the most surprises and "quality" migrants, including yet another first for North America and a first for Alaska. Better coverage around Nome also produced more rarities than usual. The northbound push commenced and continued nearly on-average through the season, at least south of the Alaska Range, while decent concentrations of shorebirds and early passerines surfaced at most reporting stations. Onshore winds in the eastern Bering Sea pushed record numbers of Nearctic forms onto the Bering Sea coast and offshore islands. In the second half of May, the Aleutian Low shifted to a position that forced the anticyclone storm track far south of the western Aleutians, dulling bird passage in the process.

As has come to be a recent pattern, documentation of significant species continues to be sporadic, with marginal and excellent details and/or photos often interspersed with few or no details. I cannot publish reports or forward records of notable observations to the University of Alaska Museum without proper documentation.

This spring's Attu Island highlights will be the last installment of bird-tour reports from that long-established Aleutian outpost. From sporadic reports by pioneering souls in the early 1970s to the well-oiled, nearly "posh" ATTOUR trips of the last 22 years, the tours as we have come to know them ended there after an autumn 2000 trip. Because of impossible logistics hurdles, military and FAA impediments, aging planes, and various other uncertainties, ATTOUR will close out its Aleutian trips. In the 22 years of continuous bird tours to Attu, some 17 species were added to North America's list, another three new Nearctic breeding records were confirmed, and dozens of first or second Aleutian records of notable Palearctic species were substantiated. Those individuals involved throughout the history of these visits were also fortunate to have observed profound natural-history changes in the Massacre Bay area and the steady decay of historical World War II evidence. An irreplaceable chapter of Alaskan and North American avifaunal history closes.

Abbreviations: ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (n. Gulf of Alaska); S.E. (se. Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas). Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (vt.) referenced are on file at University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks.

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Gambell seawatchers reported an above-average *23* Arctic Loons off the point, mostly between 4–8 Jun, with a peak of 7/day (WINGS). At least 2 each were also found at

Attu and Shemya Is. 22 May–early Jun (ATTOUR, DDG). Hearsay reports, rarely with documentation, from the Nome road system continue each year, where Arctic Loons are casual. Indications of an excellent winter population (and possibly a record one-day Aleutian total) were *9* Yellow-billed Loons around e. Attu 19 May+ (ATTOUR), where singles are more normal in spring. Alaska's 2nd **Eared Grebe**, reported from Juneau 20–21 May (†RJG et al.), follows the Region's first documented record from Fairbanks in spring 1998. Estimated dead a week, the carcass of a **Little Egret** was found at Buldir I. 27 May (JCW, *ILJ), providing the first record of this Palearctic form in Alaska and w. North America.

Bering Sea/Aleutian waterfowl reports were surprisingly dominated by Nearctic forms, while observers noted one of the poorest Palearctic waterfowl showings ever. Bean Geese were notable exceptions, with a new record *13+* around Attu 16 May–5 Jun, including 8 on 18 May (ATTOUR) and a single e. to St. Paul I. 23 May (ST.PAUL). Significant North American finds from the Nome area included a pair of Gadwalls 2 June (VENT), a drake Blue-winged Teal 5–7 Jun+ (GB, VENT), and 32+ Canvasbacks (MMR, WINGS). Western Aleutian Nearctic highlights involved increasing record counts of Aleutian Canada Geese at both Attu and Shemya (ATTOUR, DDG), a pair of American Wigeons at Shemya 14 May+ (DDG) and a single at Attu 24–28 May (ATTOUR), *5 carolinensis* Green-winged Teal at Shemya 20 May (DDG) and at least one from Attu 24 May–12 Jun (ATTOUR), and an ad. male Surf Scoter, casual in the w. Aleutians, at Shemya 21 May (DDG). Waterfowl highlights from elsewhere in the Region included interesting Snow Geese overflights in the Interior, where rarely noted, with small groups at Talkeetna 25 Apr (GP) and Fairbanks *27 May* (*fide* ABO); a single Ross's Goose from the Homer Spit 5–6 May+ (GVB†, RLS), Southcoastal's 2nd; a rare spring drake **Wood Duck** in Juneau 28 May (PS, RJG, GVV); a peak of *16* Blue-winged Teal around Juneau 12–20 May (RJG, PS) and a pair rare offshore in S.E. in Ketchikan 11 May (AP ph.); a Juneau Cinnamon Teal 30 Apr (PS); a new S.E. record *18* Redheads from Juneau 20 May (RJG, PS); and a peak concentration of 15,000 Surf Scoters attracted to spawning herring near Ketchikan 25 Apr (SBW). Gambell observers reported larger numbers of migrant Spectacled Eiders than in the previous 12 years, including two flocks of 52 and 120 on 3–5 Jun (WINGS).

Furnishing just the second record for Alaska and the third for North America were two Lanceolated Warblers at Attu, the venerable Aleutian Island famous for attracting wayward Asian birds. This individual was photographed on the last day of the two birds 2–6 June 2000 stay. ***Photograph by David W. Sonneborn***

COOTS THROUGH ALCIDS

Following probable extirpation of Arctic Foxes from Attu, Evermann's Rock Ptarmigan numbers rebounded quickly, with spring counts of *30+* from several days in May. Several nests of this island endemic population, which had been considered threatened, were also located in June (ATTOUR). The Anchorage area's ptarmigan magnet-site at Arctic Valley produced a local record *50+* Rock Ptarmigan 20 Mar–2 Apr (RLS), where singles are normally noteworthy; they are distinctly rare and local in the Chugach Mts. The spring's only American Coot was in Juneau 19 May (PS). Possibly because of historically poor spring coverage on S.E.'s mainland rivers, little is known of Sandhill Crane migration there and in S.E. generally. This spring revealed a late April surge of flocks within and e. of the Coast Range, with hundreds noted well up the Unuk R. 2–21 Apr (AWP) and similar counts at Hyder in the same general time frame (DDG). Whether these were migrants reorienting inland after drifting towards the coast, or simply within the "normal" northbound range remains in question.

Except for Nome area highlights, shorebird passage was sporadic and with a weak Asiatic component, especially from the Aleutians, where two Long-toed Stints at Attu 30 May–2 Jun were the *only* regular Asian *Calidris* recorded. Highlights were mainly Nearctic forms and a sprinkling of Asiatics to the Bering Sea and interesting S.E. finds, including 3 Pacific Golden-Plovers 13 May at Ketchikan (ph. AWP), where rare; a Mongolian Plover described from the Seward Peninsula's Teller Road w. of Nome 7 Jun (†MMR); an unusual w. Aleutian Semipalmated Plover at Attu 13 Jun (ATTOUR); a showy Eurasian Dotterel at Gambell 6 Jun (WINGS, vt. GHR); a Common Greenshank, casual from Gambell, 29 May–1 Jun (MMR, WINGS, vt. GHR) and another 6 at St. Paul 28–31 May (ST.PAUL); an incredibly late and low peak of only *4* Wood Sandpipers at Attu 31 May (ATTOUR); Gambell's first-ever Solitary Sandpiper 1 Jun+ (WINGS, vt. GHR); single Far Eastern Curlews at Attu 21 May and 1 Jun (ATTOUR) and ≤3 at Shemya 1–6 Jun (DDG); single Great Knots from St. Paul I. 21–22 May (3rd Pribilof record, ST.PAUL) and Attu 21–22 Jun (4th Aleutian record, ATTOUR); and a Ruff from Juneau 15 May (†RJG). With extensive and increasingly earlier coverage of the Nome road system, more-than-usual early-season wader highlights were noted from there. Unprecedented of these finds was a Little Stint described from Safety 7 Jun (†REG, NS, LT), a first for the Seward Peninsula; a White-rumped Sandpiper (casual on the Bering Sea coast) 6 Jun at Safety Sound (†MMR); a single Curlew Sandpiper (Seward Peninsula's 2nd) also at Safety 7 Jun (†REG, NS, LT); about the 8th Seward Stilt Sandpiper at Nome 6 Jun (†MMR); and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper inland in subapline habitat near Ear Mt. 4 Jun (JP, †REG).

Considered long overdue after the few previous Aleutian records, a first-summer **Black-tailed Gull** was well-described from Attu 14 May (ATTOUR, †SCH), the Region's 12th overall and the Aleutian's 4th. Rare in S.E. in spring was a second-summer Ring-billed Gull at Ketchikan 6 May (SCH). An ad. **Western Gull**, also rare in S.E., described from Ketchikan 29 Mar (†SCH) was likely a leftover from the winter season. Three *longipennis* Common Terns, the season's only report, appeared at Attu with a weather front 3 Jun (ATTOUR).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MUSCICAPIDS

Apparently associated with the passage of two low-pressure systems were separate groups of 3 and 2 Common Cuckoos at Attu 2–9 & 12–13 Jun, respectively (*ATTOUR). Included in the first "wave" was a single **Oriental Cuckoo** 3–5 Jun (ATTOUR, †*SCH), the Aleutians' 4th overall and the

SA One of the season's ultimate events was an unprecedented and unaccountable passage of Northern Hawk Owls across the w. edge of the Seward Peninsula. Beginning with a single individual found inland near the Kougarok R. bridge 29 May (CH, LT, JP, DB), Nome-area birders encountered an incredible **20** hawk owls through at least 10 Jun. Nearly all were noted within 2 km of the immediate coast. Zimmer and Wolf's report (VENT) chronicled what they describe as an "invasion" when the group found at least 5 individuals between the Nome R. bridge and Safety Sound 3 June, and 12+ during a longer survey of the coast roads 5 Jun. Several were actually seen flying well offshore and relatively high, moving directly toward the coastline. It was generally felt that birds were arriving, resting, feeding on an abundant vole population, and moving on during this period; most owls were harassed by local breeding birds of many species. Although this diurnal owl inhabits the Interior *taiga* west to near the Seward Peninsula base, there are only 5 previous records from the entire peninsula. Kessel (*Birds of the Seward Peninsula*, 1989) recounted an historic report of a similar spring "movement" of hawk owls from the "upper Nome River" 23 May 1906. Whether this spring's coastal birds were actually migrants, and if so of which race (Nearctic *S. u. caparoch* or Old World *ulula*), or simply represented possible Interior non-breeders taking advantage of a microtene population explosion, remains an intriguing conjecture. Although Northern Hawk Owls are often noted "dispersing" to coastal sites in fall, there is never a reverse spring movement.

first time both *Cuculus* appeared together. Western Screech-Owls continue to turn up w. and beyond the few known S.E. breeding locales, with ≤3 reported in Mar/Apr out the Cordova road system (*fide* AL, DDG), where there are only a few previous accounts. Another, picked up dead at the edge of Girdwood Valley down Turnagain Arm from Anchorage in early May (*fide* REG), was completely unexpected and a first for U.C.I. So little is known about this local resident form that we have no idea if it is expanding westward or simply a rare and local resident of riparian cottonwoods within the Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock forest. The winter's (q.v.) Great Gray Owl appearances expanded well into April, with a final tally of at least *8* in U.C.I. between Big Lake and s. Anchorage to 12 Apr (*fide* RLS). Another, the "winter's" 2nd in S.E., appeared offshore at the Klawock Airport, Prince of Wales I. 10 Mar (SM, MI, *fide* SCH). At least 3 Short-eared Owls successfully wintered for the first time in U.C.I. at Anchorage, noted regularly late Feb–early Apr (DWS, NS, DFD et al.). These birds are the most northerly to overwinter in the Region.

A decaying Northern Shrike carcass was picked up near the beach at *Attu* 13 May (*SCH) and is pending subspecies assignment. There are no records w. of Adak I., where Nearctic *borealis* is casual in fall/winter. A pair of Northwestern Crows, extralimital in U.C.I., that wintered in *Bird Creek* just s. of Anchorage, were found at a nest 31 May+ (GB, OH, *fide* RLS). Although nothing was in the nest at that date, it represents the Region's most northerly breeding record for this coastal fringe resident. Closest known nesting areas are over the Kenai Range in Prince William Sound and on the Kenai Peninsula coast. A cinnamon-bellied Barn Swallow appeared out of nowhere inland on the Seward Peninsula at Quartz Creek 5 Jun (NS, REG, CH), within the time frame of the other half-dozen Seward Peninsula records. Finishing up the tail-end of spring passage at Attu was a classic, skulking **Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler** 10–11 Jun (*ATTOUR). Of the seven previous Alaska records, this is the 2nd in spring and 4th overall for the Aleutians. Filling out the *Locustella* run were 2 **Lanceolated Warblers** flushed out of the beach rye-grass fields on Attu 2–6 Jun (ATTOUR, †SCH, ph. DWS), the Region's first since an initial appearance on Attu in spring 1984. A fallout of at least *7* Red-breasted Flycatchers at Attu, including 2 adult males, followed a storm cell 2–5 Jun (ATTOUR). This diminutive bird remains casual in the w. Aleutians in spring only.

TURDIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Single Siberian Rubythroats at Attu 23–24 & 28 May were followed by storm fallouts of 4 on 1–9 Jun and 3 on 13 Jun (ATTOUR). Shemya had a similar passage initiated with a single bird 22 May (DDG). A small brown thrush flushed by the morning field party from Attu's Gilbert Ridge bluffs 4 Jun turned out to be a **Rufous-tailed Robin**, *Luscinia sibilans* (ATTOUR, ph. JK). Relatively poor photographs are being analyzed at time of this writing. Both races of this relatively restricted species reach the Sea of Okhotsk but the more northerly *swistun* apparently ranges to an isolated colony to e.-cen. Kamchatka. It migrates on the mainland to winter sites in the Yangtze R. watershed of se. China; it is a rare, irregular migrant, mostly from the w. shores of Japan.

SA Unprecedented numbers and diversity of Nearctic taxa reached the Bering Sea islands this spring as noted in St. Paul and St. Lawrence I. reports. Besides the already mentioned waterbird highlights, mainland Alaska passerines found Bering Sea islands in late May/early June. Coverage of the road-system habitats at St. Paul I. turned up one each of Yellow-rumped Warbler 19 May (TS), Golden-crowned Sparrow 21 May, Dark-eyed Junco 18 May (2nd spring record), and Rusty Blackbird 21 May (first spring record, *fide* ST.PAUL). Mainland forms sought opportunistic habitats at Gambell, including an Olive-sided Flycatcher 5 Jun (2nd St. Lawrence I. record, TS, WINGS); a Horned Lark 30 May–1 Jun (about the 4th island record, VENT, WINGS, vt. GHR); single Bank Swallows 1 & 4 Jun (WINGS); a Swainson's Thrush 5 Jun (2nd island record, WINGS, vt. GHR); 3+ Hermit Thrushes 31 May–5 Jun+ (MMR, WINGS); several American Tree Sparrows 1–8 Jun (MMR, WINGS); 2+ Savannah Sparrows 1–8 Jun (WINGS); at least one Sooty Fox Sparrow, possibly *unalaschcensis*, 3–6 Jun (3rd overall and 2nd spring island record, WINGS, MMR); 2 White-crowned Sparrows 3–8 Jun (±6th island record, WINGS); and a pair of Dark-eyed Juncos 4–8 Jun (WINGS, vt. GHR). Although some of these species find their way to the Bering Sea islands occasionally in both spring and fall, this year's representation was historic and nicely documented.

With excellent S.E. coverage, the Mountain Bluebird migration across the e. sections of the Region was nicely framed this year. Up to *7* birds were tallied in the Juneau area 14–30 Apr (PS, SZ) and another 2 were reported from the Taku R. 14 & 27 Apr (AD). Record numbers passed through riparian sites of the upper Unuk R. farther s. in S.E. 11–30 Apr (DM, *fide* AWP), with a peak of *30* individuals counted 14 Apr (AWP). This form is typically an irregular spring migrant in small numbers in S.E., on its way to interior British Columbia breeding areas. Elsewhere, singles near Fairbanks 28 Apr and 10 May, and a pair there 18 May (*fide* ABO) were more normal. Also unusual for the S.E. mainland, where there are sporadic spring records, were single Townsend's Solitaires up the Unuk R. 25–27 Apr (AWP). Small numbers of Eye-browed

Thrushes were in the storm-related mix in the w. Aleutians 21–25 May+ (ATTOUR, DDG), with a peak of 3 at Attu 21–23 May. Another 3 were also noted at Attu 3–4 Jun (ATTOUR). Heinl submitted details of what was considered an imm. male Naumann's Dusky Thrush, *T. n. naumanni*, from Attu's Gilbert Bluffs 20–21 May (ATTOUR). This more southerly race reaches the Pacific Coast barely to the s. Sea of Okhotsk, and this report constitutes the Region's 2nd and the first in spring.

Another suspicious pair of Black-backed Wagtails resided at Attu 13 May–13 Jun near a structure where the species has previously nested (ATTOUR). Up to 6 Olive-backed Pipits made a decent spring peak at Attu 13 May–1 Jun+ (ATTOUR, DDG). Two small groups of Rustic Buntings arrived at Attu only, including 4 on 13–25 May and another 4 on 2–5 Jun (ATTOUR). Bramblings were described in small numbers, with maxima of only 13 at Attu 18 & 19 May and in the w. Aleutians 13 May–3 Jun+ (ATTOUR, DDG). The only report from elsewhere was of 2 together at Gambell 29 May (TS, MMR, VENT). At Attu and Shemya 1–13 Jun, Common Rosefinches made the Region's best showing since the Jun 1977 Gambell fallout, with a peak *7* at Attu 3 Jun (ATTOUR, DDG). The Ketchikan area's 2nd-ever May Purple Finch, which remains a rare winter/spring visitor in S.E., appeared at a feeder there 6 Jun (JFK). A flighty male **Bullfinch**, the 4th for the w. Aleutians, was reported without details from Attu 14–15 May (ATTOUR). Evening Grosbeaks were up the Taku R., probably part of the winter push that also brought one to Juneau (q.v. winter), last seen 7 Apr (SZ). Up to 9 were reported from the Tulsequah area in April (*fide* AD), and singles were seen near Canyon I. 5 Apr (AD) and at the Canada border 9 May (TS). A few Hawfinches were included in this spring's passage, including one at St. Paul 21 May (ST.PAUL) and 2 and then a single at Attu 1 & 13 Jun, respectively (ATTOUR).

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For only the second season in the last five there were no first state records found in the Region this spring—no Shy Albatross, Wedge-tailed Shearwater, Red-faced Cormorant, Whiskered Auklet, or Eurasian Kestrel. Perhaps we were getting spoiled. But it was still an interesting spring, and the most fascinating angle was not specific rarities but trends. White-faced Ibises irrupted across the Region, Franklin's Gulls irrupted on the eastside, and shorebirding on the eastside/ interior westside was incredibly good, better than on the coast for that matter. Somehow, these occurrences seem likely linked, but how is not clear. The eastside also had its share of mega-rarities with Arctic Loon, two Eastern Phoebes, Black-throated Green Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Summer Tanager, all recorded ten or fewer times in the Region.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, *Lane*, OR); L.K.N.W.R., (Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Klamath*, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., *Harney*, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA); P.N.P. (Pt. No Pt., *Kitsap*, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*, WA); WBRC (Washington Bird Records Committee). "Eastside" and "westside" mean east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

A Red-throated Loon was on the eastside, where not annual, at Priest Rapids L. 15 Apr

(DG). Washington's first **Arctic Loon**, initially found in Jan at Priest Rapids L., remained until 15 Apr (†EH, DG). Two Pacific Loons at Vantage, *Kittitas*, 18 May were exceptionally late for the eastside (†TA); 4 others were on the eastside, all in Mar (BF, BL). Yellow-billed Loons at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, 9 Mar (C. Philo); Sequim, *Clallam*, 11 Mar (SDo); Netarts Bay, *Tillamook*, 13 Mar–9 Apr (CR); and one a few weeks late at O.S. 7 May (SM, DD), provided an above-average spring total for the past decade. Westside Clark's Grebes at L. Washington, *King*, 19 Mar (S. Terry); O.S., 14–20 Mar (PtS, KKn); near Florence, *Lane*, 20 Apr (BS, Z. Stotz); and at Yaquina Bay 12 May (PaS) provided an average total. Laysan Albatross reports continue to increase: Newport, *Lincoln*, pelagics had two 29 Apr, one 7 May, and seven 21 May (GG), while two were off Westport, *Grays Harbor*, 22 Apr (TRW), and one was dead at O.S. 20 Mar (PWS). Offshore counts of Black-footed Albatross were normal, with 100–200 per trip, but one from shore at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, 20 Apr was most unusual (PP). Northern Fulmar numbers were remarkably low, with only 23 on five pelagic trips (TRW, GG). Somewhat normal numbers of Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were found offshore but, surprisingly, no Short-tailed Shearwaters were reported (TRW, GG). A Manx Shearwater was found in a parking lot in Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, 9 Apr (†SM, C. Wood) and another was at O.S. 14 May (†KA); though now annual in Washington, most have been Jul–Oct, so these records are the first for spring since 1994. A Manx/Black-vented Shearwater was seen from Boiler Bay 3 May (†PP); given recent trends, it was almost certainly a Manx.

Over the past decade American White Pelicans have been found in singles and pairs, throughout the year, at scattered westside localities; reports this year from Everett, *Snohomish* (DB), Sauvie I./Ridgefield (L. Johns, EA), and Leque I., *Snohomish* (S. Kostka) fit this pattern but 27 at F.R.R. 27 May was exceptional (JC, DDe). Brown Pelicans returned early this year, with Oregon's first at Port Orford, *Curry*, 13 Apr (NW) and Washington's first at Westport 15 Apr (BTw). A Snowy Egret, barely annual in Washington, was at Tokeland, *Pacific*, 13 May (†BL); most records are Apr–May. One Cattle Egret report, from Malheur 21 Apr, was about normal (DE).

The injured Emperor Goose at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, survived until at least 13 May (BN) and 2 at Tillamook, *Tillamook*, remained until 2 Apr (CR). Westside Ross's Geese were not as numerous as in recent springs, with 4 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 16 Apr (JL) and one at Boiler Bay 20 Apr (PP), but on the eastside, 60 at Rock L., *Whitman*, 8 Apr provided a record Washington count (DW) and 180 near Post, *Crook*, 15 Apr was astonishing for e.-cen. Oregon (CG). A single Ross's was at Phileo L., *Spokane*, 3 May (JA,WH). Single Brant were at Ridgefield and vicinity 1 Mar–10 Apr (DF, EA) and near Grants Pass, *Josephine*, 28 May (PaS); interior records are always noteworthy, even from the westside, and the latter bird was quite late for such a location. Fifteen Eurasian Wigeons on the eastside was almost twice normal. A hybrid Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal, reported annually in the Region, was at Mollala, *Clackamas*, 15 Apr (ES, TS). A Eurasian Green-winged Teal remained at Edmonds, *Snohomish*, until 2 May, one of the latest dates yet for this scarce winter visitor (DD). Others at Dallesport, *Klickitat*, 8 Apr (BTw) and Pelton Dam, *Jefferson*, 1–2 Mar (R. Marheine, G. Concannon) were on the eastside, where extremely rare. The Region averages ±2 Tufted Ducks per spring, almost all from the westside, though reports along the eastside Columbia R. from Umatilla to Hood R. have been somewhat regular during recent years. This spring there were three reports: Hoquiam 11 Mar–2 Apr (R. Sanders, J. Friars, vt. SM); Biggs, *Sherman*, 26 Mar (J. Alban); and Ridgefield 15 Apr–14 May (N. Brunson, WC). However, one at Hatfield L., *Deschutes*, 6 May (A. Weber) provided perhaps the first e. Oregon record away from the Columbia R. and surpassed the previous Regional late date of 2 May. A concentration of 21 Red-breasted Mergansers at Banks L., *Grant*, 29 Mar was unusual for the eastside (JA). A count of 12,800 Ruddy Ducks at Malheur 21 Apr was exceptional, even for se. Oregon (DE, CG).

A White-tailed Kite at Malheur 13 Apr was in e. Oregon, where rare (MM). Out-of-place Red-shouldered Hawks, rare n. of *Coos*, were at Yachats, *Lincoln*, 10 Mar (S. Hagen) and Ridgefield 28 Apr (†PtS). If accepted by the WBRC, a **Broad-winged Hawk** at Stanwood, *Snohomish*, 11 Apr (†DB) will provide the 3rd documented spring Washington record and the Region's earliest by a month. There were unprecedented numbers of Swainson's Hawks on the westside, where extremely rare. Singles were at Everett 5 May (DB); Eugene, *Lane*, 5 May (M. Nikas); Carnation, *King*, 14 May (EH); Portland, 16 & 23 May (fide HN); Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 30 May (TJW); and Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston*, 31 May (SN). A Harlan's Hawk at March Pt., *Skagit*, 13 May was a month late (SM, BTw). The only Gyrfalcon was a month late at Tangent, *Linn*, 11 Apr (JH). A Prairie Falcon at F.R.R. 29 Apr provided a rather late date for this scarce winter visitor to the westside (H. Lown). An apparently injured Sandhill Crane at Brady, *Grays Harbor*, 20 May was unusually late for w. Washington (PtS).

SA White-faced Ibis have steadily increased in the Region, with the center of abundance always being Malheur. About 20 pairs nested there in the late 1960s, increasing to 150 pairs in the late 1970s, 880 pairs in 1984, and 4600 pairs in 1987 (Gilligan et al. 1994, *Birds of Oregon*). By the late 1980s, small nesting colonies become established in *Lake*. The 1990s saw further increases, with ever more birds wandering elsewhere in the Region. In the 1990s, Washington averaged about 2 per year; prior to 1960, there had been only 1–2 records. Paralleling these changes in WA/OR, wintering numbers in se. California have increased from a few thousand in the 1950s to 16,000+0 in the mid–1990s and double that today (G. McCaskie).

Even given such impressive increases, spring 2000 was stunning. At Chewaucan Marsh, *Lake*, 1518 were tallied 13 May (CM) and numbers at Malheur seemed well above recent norms (AC). Additionally, unprecedented numbers of vagrants appeared, with 438 reported from w. Oregon after 19 May, 81 from w. Washington after 25 May, 16 away from usual locations in e. Oregon after 29 Apr, and 3 in e. Washington 27–28 May. Maxima from w. Oregon included 100 near Bandon, *Coos*, 21 May (DL, KC) and 65 at Yaquina Bay 21 May (GG). Wayward birds in e. Oregon included 6 near Post, *Crook*, 29 Apr (C. Gates), 5 at Hatfield L., *Deschutes*, 14 May (D. Hale), and ≤5 at *Wallowa* in late May (F&SC). In Washington, sightings included 80+ at Ridgefield 25–31 May (ph., D. Yorgason-Quinn, DF), 3 at Othello, *Adams*, 27–28 May (KA, SM, C. Beachell), and one near Kingston, *Kitsap*, 30–31 May (VN). Reasons for this irruption are unclear, particularly considering the substantial westside component. An ever-increasing breeding population is likely part of the reason, but why so many birds along the coast and relatively few in ne. Oregon and e. Washington?

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Six hundred Black-bellied Plovers at L.K.N.W.R. 21 Apr exceeded the previous eastside spring high count several-fold (KS); even 14 at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln*, 19 May was exceptional for the eastside in spring (JA). Though not unprecedented, an American Golden-Plover at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos*, 17 March was about one month early (TB); one at Rock L., *Whitman*, 29 Apr (DW) provided about the 2nd spring record for e. Washington. The only other report was of one at O.S. 29 Apr (SDs). Six Pacific Golden-Plovers—a record spring total—were at Brady 4 May (†TA). Two were also there 11 May (TA) and one was at the Pistol R. mouth, *Curry*, 29 Apr (NW); the Region averages only about 4 per spring. Nine unidentified golden-plovers were reported 12 Apr–31 May. Black-necked Stilts are still increasing in the Region; a number were found 2–3 weeks early at scattered *Adams*, *Grant*, and *Benton* locations in late Mar (BF, DP, BW). Tallies of 51 at Othello, *Adams*, 28 May (SM, BTw, KA, BL, S. Mills) and 50 near Lamont, *Whitman*, 5 May (DW) were probably record counts for spring in Washington. Rare on the westside, ≤7 were at Ridgefield 26 Apr–17 May (J. Shearer, JE), and 12 were at Corvallis, *Benton*, OR, 12 Apr (BT, D. MacDonald), ≤6 were at Tualatin N.W.R., *Washington*, OR, 22 Apr–13 May (PaS), 4 were near Bandon 21 Apr (DL, KC), 2 at Baskett Slough N.W.R. 20 Apr (RG), and 2 at Eugene 24–27 Apr (D. W. Smyth). Eight American Avocets were at Crockett L., *Island*, 15 May, with nest-building noted 21 May (J. Meyer, SM, CH); they are casual in spring in w. Washington and have not previously nested there. In w. Oregon, where rare, 4 were rare at Flores L., *Curry*, 21 Apr (J. Heaney, L. Mangan) and one was at N.S.C.B. 21 May (TR).

Solitary Sandpiper numbers were above average, with 17 in w. Oregon, 4 in e. Oregon, 4 in w. Washington, and one in e. Washington, all 17 Apr–16 May and most 20–30 Apr. Single Willets were at Tangent 10 Apr (TB), F.R.R. 22 May (DDe), and Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln*, WA, 20 May (JA, WH); they are rare in interior w. Oregon and e. Washington. An Upland Sandpiper, extirpated since 1993 as a Washington breeder, was near Ephrata, *Grant*, 28 May (†MMo), only about the 17th state record of a migrant and only the 4th from spring. Twenty-two Whimbrels at L.K.N.W.R. 29 Apr was an exceptional concentration for the eastside (KS). Six Long-billed Curlew reports from the Willamette Valley and Puget Trough 2 Apr–15 May was above average for the westside interior. A **Hudsonian Godwit** at Miller I., *Klamath*, 30 May (D. Heyerly, A. Esche) furnished only the 3rd Oregon and 7th Regional spring record, with previous ones spanning 26 Apr–8 Jun. Marbled Godwits at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant*, 9 May (BF) and Swanson Lakes 12 May (JA) provided rare e. Washington records; 59 at Antelope Res, *Malheur*, 21 Apr provided an excellent count for e. Oregon (MD, MLD). Three more at Ridgefield 3 May, were quite unusual for interior w. Washington (JE). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Hatfield L., *Deschutes*, 10 May and 4 were in Lake 13 May (S. de Vasconcellos, CM); there are <20 spring eastside records. Two Red Knots, rare on the eastside during spring, were at L.K.N.W.R. 1 May, providing the eastside with its earliest record ever (KS). Three more were at Summer L., *Lake*, 12 May (CM, MM) and 2 were at Swanson Lakes 19 May (JA). Another at Ridgefield 14 May provided a very rare report from the interior westside (PtS). Eight Semipalmated Sandpipers 8–14 May doubled the recent average of 4/spring; 2 on the eastside at Malheur 14 May (TB) were particularly noteworthy. The only Baird's Sandpipers were at O.S. 2 Apr (PWS) and near White City, *Jackson*, 1 Apr (J. Harleman), probably the earliest ever for the Region. Eleven Pectoral Sandpipers 22 Apr–20 May were well above the usual 2–3 spring total. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at New R. mouth, *Coos*, 24 May, provided only the 2nd Regional spring record (†DL, KC), the first coming from Leadbetter Pen., *Pacific*, 26 Apr 1979. Eighteen Rock Sandpipers at Cape Flattery, *Clallam*, 28 May were the latest ever for the Region and a good high count for recent years (†BN). A **Stilt Sandpiper** at Astoria, *Clatsop*, 20 Apr, was only Oregon's 2nd in spring (MP) and a **Ruff** at L.K.N.W.R. 30 Apr was only Oregon's 4th in spring (vt. K. Owen). Numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes offshore were low, but 4000+ from shore at Boiler Bay 3 May were impressive (PP). A tally of 3500+ Red Phalaropes off Newport 21 May provided a record high count (GG).

South Polar Skuas are casual before June, so one nw. of Westport 28 May was noteworthy (PA). Six Parasitic Jaegers at Bellingham, *Whatcom*, 21 May, provided a remarkably high spring count for the Puget Sound area (TRW). Spring Long-tailed Jaegers, formerly considered casual, were recorded for the 4th consecutive year: 3 off Newport 21 May (GG) and one nw. of Westport 28 May (PA). Franklin's Gulls are normally barely annual during spring in e. Washington and ne. Oregon, but this spring was different with one at Swallows Park, *Asotin*, 27 May (KKn), 3 at W.W.R.D. 25 May (TA), several at Joseph, *Wallowa*, in late May (F&SC), 3 at Swanson Lakes 20 May (JA,WH), 9 at Sprague L., *Lincoln*, 13 May (JA), and 7 at Reardan, *Lincoln*, 18 May (JA). Another Franklin's Gull 16 mi w. of Yaquina Head, *Lincoln*, 7 May was on the westside, where extremely rare during spring (GG). A Little Gull at Summer L. 30 Apr was only about the 4th for e. Oregon and the first in spring (†PH, JH). Another was at P.N.P. 22–25 Mar and 5 Apr (VN); this species is barely annual during spring in the Puget Sound area. An unseasonable Heermann's Gull at Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, 11 Mar was likely a survivor from the winter (SDo); spring arrivals appeared in late May. A first-year **Iceland Gull** at Tacoma, *Pierce*, 19 Mar was about the 9th for Washington, if accepted by the WBRC (ph. MDo). A first-year Glaucous Gull was a month late at O.S. 22 May (KK); another late individual was at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 3–12 May (PP, PaS). Two Arctic Terns returned to the tiny Everett colony 5 May (DB). A Forster's Tern was at F.R.R. 13 Apr (D. Pettey) and ≤6 were at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, 13–29 May (JL,JH); this species is extremely rare in spring on the westside. Up to 16 Black Terns were at F.R.R., where they have bred since 1992, 13 May+ (D. Irons); 12 others, well above average, were reported from the westside 14–30 May. Common Murre and Cassin's Auklet numbers off Washington remain pathetic, with 80 of the former and 46 of the latter on the two spring Westport pelagics (TRW). Marbled Murrelet counts of 647 on 31 Mar and 337 on 25 May at P.N.P. (VN) were some of the highest ever for the Region.

PIGEONS THROUGH THRASHERS

Band-tailed Pigeons, rare-but-annual on the eastside with most records from se. Oregon in spring/summer, were at Malheur 27 May (AC) and Joseph 28 May (F&SC). Bringing the Regional total to ±5 records, a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** was at Astoria 3 Apr (TT). The only westside Burrowing Owl was at Portland 10–20 Mar (B. Sallinger). A White-throated Swift at Eugene 4 May was in nw. Oregon, where casual (B. Newhouse). The Vaux's Swift roost in Eugene peaked at 10,000 birds 6 May (JC). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Everett 19–20 May was in nw. Washington, where casual (vt. SM). Another at Grants Pass 15 May was in the Rogue R. valley (A. van Hulzen), the only westside area where somewhat regular. Washington's 2nd **Costa's Hummingbird**

was a male at Richmond Beach, *King*, 27 Apr–10 May (D. Norman, D. Paulson, †SM, vt. EH). Oregon reports came from Sutherlin, *Douglas*, 1 May (K. Wilson) and Bend, *Deschutes*, 28–30 Apr (D. Tracy, J. Williamson); Oregon averages one/spring. Calliope Hummingbirds, nearly annual w. of the Cascades in Washington in Apr–May, were at Washougal, *Skamania*, 4 Apr (WC); Olympia, *Thurston*, 9 Apr (R. Saecker); and Everett 22 May (SM). In w. Oregon, where more regular, there were 13 reports 2 Apr–13 May, well above average. Lewis's Woodpeckers, rare in nw. Oregon and w. Washington, were near Baskett Slough N.W.R. 26 Apr (R. Day) and Wilson W.A., *Benton*, 28 May (JH). On 14 May, two Acorn Woodpeckers were near Lyle, *Klickitat*, Washington's only regular spot for this species (PtS). Red-naped Sapsuckers were near Lebanon, *Linn*, 31 Mar (JH), Elkton, *Douglas*, 2 May (SD), and Portland 7 Apr (R. Cronin); they are rare in spring w. of the Cascades.

Willow Flycatchers at Spanaway, *Pierce*, 28 Apr (GR), Skagit W.M.A., *Skagit*, 2 May (SM, DD) and Washtucna, *Adams*, 4 May (BF) were exceptionally early for Washington, the main influx not reaching that state until about 25 May. A few Least Flycatchers occur annually in the Region starting in late May; singles were at Wenas Creek, *Yakima*, 26–29 May (AS); Palouse Falls, *Franklin*, 27 May (KKn, DB); and Malheur 30 May (JG, GL, SG). Gray Flycatchers were near Arlington, *Snohomish*, 1–2 May (DB, †SM, DD) and at Steigerwald L., *Clark*, 6 May (†WC); there were only three prior records from w. Washington, two from May. A Black Phoebe at Milwaukie, *Clackamas*, to 20 Mar was well n. of its usual range (ES). Washington's 3rd **Eastern Phoebe** was at Washtucna 27 May (†DB) while Oregon's 6th was near Fossil, *Wheeler*, 14 May (†PaS); most of the Region's records have accrued during the last five years. Ten Say's Phoebes in w. Oregon 6 Mar–5 May were well above average and included one on the outer coast near Florence 16 Mar (BS). The only w. Washington report came from Steigerwald L. 19 Mar (HG). Three Ash-throated Flycatchers were n. of their usual range in w. Oregon: F.R.R. 15 May (L. Gilbert); Detroit Flats, *Marion*, 16 May (M. Kleinbaum); and Tualatin N.W.R., *Washington*, 30 May (EM); most records from nw. Oregon are May/June. Seven Western Kingbirds at P.N.P. 22 May (VN) was an impressive concentration for the westside.

A Loggerhead Shrike, barely annual in w. Washington, was at Everett 13 May (DB). Another on the outer coast at Cape Blanco 26 May (TJW) was more exceptional. A Northern Shrike at Finley N.W.R., *Benton*, 22 Apr (J. Fairchild) was about three weeks late for w. Oregon. Three Plumbeous Vireos from *Harney*, 19–30 May seems above normal, but this species' status is still being worked out (M, HN, D. Helzer, D. Albright). A Red-eyed Vireo at Malheur 9 May (OS) was at least two weeks early. Blue Jays, barely annual on the westside and virtually unrecorded after early May, were at Steamboat I., *Thurston*, 25 Mar–7 May (J. Parkhurst); Duvall, *King*, 30 Mar–1 Apr (*fide* H. Opperman); Philomath, *Benton*, 15 May (K. Fairchild); and P.N.P. 21 May (VN). On the eastside, individuals remained at Sisters, *Deschutes*, until 6 May (SS) and at Bend, *Deschutes*, until 19 Mar (G. Bernstein). Clark's Nutcrackers, rare in the westside lowlands, were near Pedee, *Polk*, 31 Mar (TB), Mehama, *Marion*, 8 Mar (SD), and Coburg, *Lane*, 13 May (L. Kaye). Ten reports of Bank Swallows away from westside breeding areas provided further evidence of their increase w. of the Cascades; in the past, they were less-than-annual during spring. Particularly notable was one about two weeks early at Newport, *Lincoln*, 11 Apr (W. Hoffman).

Two Rock Wrens, rare on the westside, were at Mt. Pisgah, *Lane*, 23 May (DDe). A Bewick's Wren near Frenchglen, *Harney*, 20 May was well e. of that species normal range (HN). Three Northern Mockingbirds on the westside represented an average spring: Eugene 12–13 Apr (L. Fish), N.S.C.B. throughout period (TR), and Ft. Steilacoom, *Pierce*, 18 Apr (B. Wilson). Only one from the eastside, however, was subpar—Malheur 20 May (OS). Sage Thrashers, extremely rare in w. Washington, were at Vancouver, *Clark*, 24 Apr–2 May (RK, KKn), Steigerwald L., *Clark*, 30 Apr (HG), and near Granite Falls, *Snohomish*, 5 May (B. Boyes). A Brown Thrasher at Prairie Creek, *Wallowa*, until early May (F&SC) was about the 20th for Oregon.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Tennessee Warbler, nearly annual in se. Oregon 20 May–15 Jun, was at Malheur 30 May (GL, JG). Two Virginia's Warblers were at Malheur 19 May (†OS), one of which remained until 29 May (HN, GL); 2 more were at Page Springs, *Harney*, 26 May (N. Bjorkland, M. Rudolph). This species recently proved to be a local breeder in se. Oregon, but there are <10 Oregon records during migration. A Black-throated Gray Warbler near Corvallis 20 Mar was two weeks early (R. Noss) and a Hermit Warbler along the Winchuck R., *Curry*, 26 Mar was a month early (DM). Oregon's 7th **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Malheur 20 May (PaS); most previous records are from *Harney* 21 May–20 June. The wintering Palm Warbler in Portland remained until 13 Mar (D. Bailey); the one in Everett remained until 2 Mar (S. Pink). Another at Mollala 28 May (ES, T. Sellers) was exceptionally late and an apparent spring migrant. The only Black-and-white Warbler was at Malheur 26 May (AC); the Region has recently averaged 5/spring, not including June. Oregon's 4th **Kentucky Warbler** was at Fields, *Harney*, 8 May (M); the previous three records are from Harney and Lake in June/July. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Wilson WA, *Benton*, 3 May (A. McGie) was n. of its usual w. Oregon range.

A **Summer Tanager** at Fields 9 May was about the 8th for Oregon (M); most previous records are from the se. 24 May–14 Jun, but there are at least two late Apr/early May records from n. California. A tally of 100+ Western Tanagers at P.N.P. 7 May was exceptional (VN). The wintering Clay-colored Sparrow at Sauvie I. remained until 12 Mar (RK); 3 returned to the traditional *Spokane* nesting site by 16 May (JA). A singing Brewer's Sparrow at Marymoor Park, *King*, 29–30 Apr provided w. Washington with only its 9th record (EH), 7 of which were 2 Apr–5 Jun. Equally rare was one on the Oregon coast at Brookings, *Curry*, 30 Apr (DM). Three Vesper Sparrows were in w. Washington away from breeding areas: Carnation 14 May (EH); Sylvana, *Snohomish*, 27 May (SM, DD); and Sequim 31 May (L&BR). Migrant Vespers are rare in w. Washington and mostly occur early Apr–early May. A Lark Sparrow, rare in nw. Oregon, was at Brownsville, *Linn*, 5 May (M. Nikas). A singing Black-throated Sparrow, a local and irregular breeder in e. Washington, was n. of Royal City, *Grant*, 31 May (EH). Two others were in w. Oregon, where casual: Sutherlin, *Douglas*, 16 May (K. Wilson) and Coburg 27 Apr (R. Holland). Most westside records have been mid-May to early Jun. A Sage Sparrow at Steptoe Butte, *Asotin*, 28 May provided a first county record and was well e. of the species' normal range (DB, KKn). A **Lark Bunting** at the L. Ozette trailhead, *Clallam*, 28 May (A. Schlecht), provided ±11th Washington record and first from Mar–May, if accepted by the WBRC. Four previous records are from June, with three from Clallam. Single Grasshopper Sparrows were at Detroit Flats, *Marion*, 8 Apr and 5

May (SD); migrants are extremely rare on the westside and 8 Apr is probably the earliest ever for the Region [though it has wintered–ed.]. A Red Fox Sparrow, likely *zaboria*, was at Spencer I., *Snohomish*, 12 Mar (†SM, DD); the status of this taxon in the Region is still uncertain, but it appears to occur annually. The last of the Region's overwintering Swamp Sparrows were at Millicoma Marsh, *Coos*, 15 Apr (TR). A Harris's Sparrow at Nisqually N.W.R. 31 May was a month late (SN). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Cape Blanco 26 May (TJW) was ±10 days late, but one at Washtucna 27 May was later and quite far east (DB); also rather far e. were 1–2 at Davenport, *Lincoln*, 5–12 May (JA).

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Astoria 5 Apr was ±6 weeks early, if it did not winter locally (MP). Two more were seen in Portland 14 May (P. Blair) and a single was at Fields 26 May (M); the Region averages about 3 each May. Lazuli Buntings are rare west of the Puget Trough in Washington, so males near Sequim 18 & 22 May were noteworthy (G. Kridler, L&BR). Another at Canby, *Clackamas*, 5 Apr (ES, TS) was among the earliest ever for the Region. A male **Indigo Bunting** at Puyallup, *Pierce*, 11–13 May (L. A. Rose, †D. Adams) was Washington's 8th and the earliest by seven days. Another at Hillsboro, *Washington*, 16 May was also early. **Tricolored Blackbirds** returned for the 3rd consecutive summer to their colony near Wilson Creek, *Grant*, with 20+ males there 28 May (DB, KKn). A Rusty Blackbird at Ellensburg, *Kittitas*, 21 May was probably the latest ever of this rare winter visitor (†PtS, †D. Hayden, RS). Common Grackles were at Fields 18 May (M) and Malheur 31 May (S. Jaggers); there are now ±23 Oregon records, half from May. Great-tailed Grackles, regular in spring/summer in se. Oregon for nearly two decades but casual on the westside and in ne. Oregon, were near Florence 8 May (R. LaChance), Newport 8 May (R. Cheek), and LaGrande, *Union*, 9 Apr (S. Croghan). Rare w. of the Cascades, a Cassin's Finch was at Leaburg, *Lane*, 11 Apr (A. Reid). Several Common Redpolls from this winter's irruption lingered into Mar on the eastside, but singles near Lebanon 9 Mar (BT), Olympia 31 Mar (J. Pruske), and Mt. Vernon, *Skagit*, 10 Mar (J. Douglass) were on the westside, where always rare. A **Hoary Redpoll** at Elk, *Spokane*, 14–16 Mar was about the 12th for Washington and the first to be physically documented (vt. MMo).

Addenda: The following were inadvertently not included in the fall 1999 column: E. Oregon's 5th Pomarine Jaeger at McNary Dam, *Umatilla*, 21 Nov (D. Smith, P. Dauble); Brown Thrasher at Glass Butte, *Lake*, 10 Sep, about the 19th for Oregon (A. Reid).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Phil Anderson, Tom Aversa, David Beaudette, Bob Boekelheide, Trent Bray, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Frank & Sue Conley, J. Cooney, Craig Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, D. DeWitt (DDe), Michael Donahue, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Duncan Evered, Bob Flores, Dan Friesz, Chuck Gates, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Henry Gilmore, Steve Gordon, Denny Granstand, Warren Hall, Jeff Harding, Patricia Harding, Carl Haynie, Eugene Hunn, Kraig Kemper, Ken Knittle (KKn), Ray Korpi, Bruce LaBar, David Lauten, John Lundsten, Ed McVicker, Allison Mickel, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, M. Moskwik (MMo), Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, Steve Nord, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Michael Patterson, Phil Pickering, Gene Revelas, Craig Roberts, Dennis Rockwell, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), L.&.B. Rymon, Owen Schmidt, Tom Sellers, Stephen Shunk, Elmer Specht, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), B. Stotz, **Paul Sullivan** (PaS, E. OR), Ruth Sullivan, B. Thackaberry, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Nathaniel Wander, Diane Weber, Bob Woodley.

middle pacific coast

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Oceanic productivity was high and may have spurred the initiation of nesting rituals of Brown Pelicans at Pt. Lobos, where they last attempted breeding some 34 years ago. The spring was mostly dry, especially along the coast where some migrants averaged a week early. Some interior migrants, such as Black-headed Grosbeak, also set arrival records east of the Sierra.

Our diligent editor, Stephen C. Rottenborn, has moved. We very much appreciate his efforts over the past few years and wish him well. We also report the "retirement" of two of our longtime subregional editors. Almost anything of value in these reports is due to the hard work of our county compilers; among the most helpful have been Emilie Strauss for *Mono* and Helen Green for *Alameda*. Emilie retires this season; for Helen the winter season was her final effort. We thank them both for years of service. Peter Metropulos and Bob Richmond, respectively, have stepped into their places.

Abbreviations: CBRC (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island); N.S. (National Seashore); O.S.P. (Open Space Preserve); R.P. (Regional Park); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); S.R. (State Reserve). Birds banded at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, should also be credited to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. These include CBRC review species, claims of first county records, and exceptionally unseasonal birds.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

Eared Grebes nested successfully at Hayward R.S., providing *Alameda* with a 4th nesting record (RJR). Laysan Albatrosses continued in small numbers on Monterey Bay in Apr–May and the Pt. Arena, *Mendocino*, bird was last seen 2 Apr, a record-late date for it. Eight Laysan and 480 Black-footed Albatrosses, a very high count for the Region, were off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, 20 May (PP, SNGH, DLSh et al.). A Manx Shearwater was seen from shore at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo*, 23 Apr (†RSTh), the location of several spring observations in recent years. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, rare inside S.F. Bay, at Pt. Isabel 6 Apr (ph., †ES, H. Spautz) was only the 2nd for *Contra Costa*. Hundreds of Brown Pelicans were initiating nesting at Pt. Lobos S.R., *Monterey*, early April+. The previous successful nesting (AB, R. Scalf et al.) by this species in *Monterey*, historically the n. limit of the breeding range, was in 1959 and the most recent attempt was in 1966.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Six Least Bitterns calling at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, in Apr–May (JTr) were presumed migrants. This species' status in the Region remains enigmatic, but report frequency in *Sacramento* continues to increase (*fide* TDM). A Cattle Egret at Pescadero 29 May (PJM) provided *San Mateo* with its first spring migrant record and was the only coastal sighting s. of *Humboldt*. A Black-crowned Night-Heron nest in Walnut Creek 5 May provided only the 2nd confirmation for *Contra Costa*'s atlas project (H. Harvey). A mid-May to early June n.-coast influx of White-faced Ibis far exceeded historical records, with ≤211 birds at scattered sites in *Humboldt* 12 May–4 Jun (m.ob.) and flocks of 20 in *Mendocino* 18 May near Pt. Arena (L. Hubbart) and Van Damme S.P. (E. Blom).

Exceptional in *Mono*, where no prior spring records exist, were Snow Geese (2 at Alkali Lakes and 4 at Crowley L., both 12 Mar) and Ross's Geese (3 at Alkali Lakes 12 Mar and 10 at Crowley L. 2 Apr; all N&MFr). Central Valley Brant were a first for *Contra Costa* with 8–15 in Oakley 20–21 May (SAG, JSL, C. Lou). Twenty-three Blue-winged Teal, all coastal, were well below average. Could this paucity be related to record numbers in w. Oregon and sw. Washington this spring? Four Tufted Ducks included winter lingerers in *Marin* until 11 Mar (†J. White, CLu, LLu) and *Sutter* until 12 Mar (m.ob.), as well as migrants in Hayward, *Alameda*, 22 Mar (RJR) and Redding, *Shasta*, 1 Apr (D. Holmes, R. Van Orden et al.). Most remarkable was a C.V. nesting record of Hooded Merganser in *Yolo* along Putah Creek, where infertile eggs dumped in a Wood Duck nest were collected 22 Apr and a female with a single chick was seen at the Univ. of Calif.- Davis Arboretum 11 May (*fide* AEn). A single female is believed responsible for both efforts. Brood parasitism is well-known among Hooded Mergansers and various other anatids.

A Northern Goshawk at Black Diamond Mines R.P., *Contra Costa*, 7 Mar (SAG) was unusual in the Diablo Range. *Santa Clara*'s first spring Broad-winged Hawk was an adult dark-morph near Milpitas 20 Apr (†MMR). Scarce migrant Swainson's Hawks were along or near the coast at Tunitas Creek mouth, *San Mateo*, 9 Apr (RSTh), Alum Rock Park, *Santa Clara*, 22 Apr (MJM), e. of Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, 25 Apr (DLSu), in S.F., 28 Apr (BrF), and e. of the Sierra at Diamond Valley, *Alpine*, 21 May (JCS, JSL). Nesting Swainson's Hawks were confirmed in five more atlas blocks in *Contra Costa*, where they were nearly unknown as a breeder prior to the start of the atlas project in 1998 (*fide* SAG). One Ferruginous Hawk 12 Mar and 2 on 2 Apr (N&MFr) in the Chalfant Valley, *Mono*, were considered to provide first spring records for that area.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Virginia Rail with two downy young at Waddell Creek, *Santa Cruz*, 1 Apr (PEG) almost matched the earliest-ever record of downy young for this species: 29 Mar 1978 in the lower Colorado R. Valley, Arizona.

A Lesser Yellowlegs at Herons Head Park 11 Apr (K. McKeregan) was the first for S.F. in over ten years, but the species was hardly noted elsewhere. California's 4th *variegatus* Whimbrel flew by Pigeon Pt. 12 May (†RSTh). Casual in spring, a Hudsonian Godwit was near Alviso, *Santa Clara*, 26–31 May (AJ, †RWR, m.ob.). *Shasta*'s first Sanderling was in Redding 10 May (†BED, B&CY). Rounding out the rare shorebird list was one Semipalmated Sandpiper at Pescadero 5 May (RSTh), up to 2 Rock Sandpipers in Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 17 Mar–10 Apr (AJ, m.ob.), and single Ruffs, both females, near Kettleman City, *Kings*, 31 Mar (JSe) and Yolo Basin W.A., *Yolo*, 8 Apr (JMHu, J. Broadvest).

LARIDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Eight coastal Franklin's Gulls from *Santa Cruz* and *San Mateo* mid-April to mid-May (PJM, BS, DLSh), down from last year's record 30, was more typical. Inland, one was at near Kettleman City, *Kern*, 19 Apr (JSe, KVV) and 2 ad. were at Lower Klamath N.W.R, *Siskiyou* (RE), where this species has nested. Bonaparte's Gulls were in normal numbers along the coast, except for the n. part of the Region where, inexplicably, only 25 were at Eureka, *Humboldt*, 1 Apr (BED). despite frequent Apr/May seawatches (*fide* DFx). After nesting for the first time in *Monterey* in 1999, 3 pairs of Heermann's Gulls nested once again at Roberts L., Seaside. One nest hatched 3 young by 29 May (SFB, DR, RC). Last year's nesting resulted in 8 young fledged. Approximately 25,000 gulls at the Newby I. Landfill, *Santa Clara*, 8 Mar (MMR, NL) comprised an estimated 5 Ring-billed, 5000 California, 20,000 Herring, 150 Thayer's gulls, 70 Western, 80 Glaucous-winged, and 3–5 Glaucous. Gull species and age compositions vary greatly at Bay Area landfills and more work is necessary to understand factors underlying this variability. The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at L. Cunningham, *Santa Clara*, was last seen 26 Mar (K. Kwan). An above-average 23 Glaucous Gulls were reported 1 Mar–23 Apr. Elegant Terns were a bit early this year, with ≤8 in *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 19 Apr+ (m.ob.).

Inland Common Terns included a first-summer at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 4 Apr (AEn et al.), an ad. near Kettleman City, *Kings*, 19 May (JSe, SBT), and a probable at Bridgeport, *Mono*, 30 May–4 Jun (†KNN). The Arctic Tern returned 24 Apr to Hayward R.S. for the 7th consecutive year and once again paired with a Forster's Tern. A banded hybrid young from the previous year returned to that location 29 May (RJR). An ad. Arctic at Topaz L. 19 May (PJM) represents only the 2nd spring record for *Mono*. For the third consecutive year, Least Terns (3 pairs) returned 19 May (JSe, SBT) to breed at the inland location near Kettleman City, *Kings*, the only known inland breeding location for the California Least Tern. Ten Least Terns were noted on a shell mound at Pt. Isabel, *Contra Costa*, 27 May (H. Greennot, D. C. Rice). By early June, there were 16 birds and at least 4 nests at this new breeding location. *Contra Costa*, which has only one other known breeding location, is the n. limit of the breeding range. A Least and a Black Tern 8 mi off Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz*, 7 May (DLSh) were unusually far offshore. Eighteen Black Terns 13 May (JSL) at Salt Spring Valley Res. were apparently new for *Calaveras*. A Common Murre at Hayward R.S. 4 Apr (RJR) was unusually far into S.F. Bay.

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Vagrant Lesser Nighthawks reached the coast at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 2 May (A.&D. Cohen) and Baldwin Creek, *Santa Cruz*, 27 May (DLSu). A pair of Chimney Swifts at Fish Slough 20 May furnished the 3rd Mono record for this rarely detected species (†PJM). A male Black-chinned Hummingbird at Pescadero 17 May provided just the 2nd record for heavily-birded *San Mateo* (DLSu). Migrant Calliope Hummingbirds were noted early Apr to mid-May, as is normal, but one at Mt. Diablo S.P. 13 Mar (JCR) was the earliest ever for *Contra Costa* and amongst the earliest ever for the Region.

An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Black Diamond Mines R.P. 7–12 Mar was just the 3rd for *Contra Costa* (SAG et al.). None of the Red-naped Sapsuckers from last winter's flurry was reported after 1 Mar, although birds thought to be Red-breasted × Red-naped hybrids were reported from Pescadero 25 Mar (G. Harwood) and coastal *Humboldt* 21 Mar (DFx). A Nuttall's Woodpecker at 6500 ft. elevation at Lower Mill Creek 27 Mar (WRch) provided the first spring record for *Mono*. A nesting pair of Hairy Woodpeckers along Putah Creek (MP, AEn et al.) furnished a rare nesting record for the C.V. floor and possibly the first for *Yolo*. A White-headed Woodpecker 6 Apr (KI) in near-coastal *Humboldt* was one of only a handful of occurrences for nw. California away from the interior mountains.

A wintering Least Flycatcher at Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt*, was last noted 3 Mar (SWH, B. Acord). A Hammond's Flycatcher at Pt. Reyes N.S. 12 Mar was likely wintering (RS, BDP et al.), with the first migrant not detected until 1 Apr at Mt. Diablo S.P., *Contra Costa* (MiF). As usual most migrants were detected at least slightly inland but coastal birds were found at scattered locales 30 Apr–24 May. Only one each of Dusky and Gray Flycatchers were reported: a Dusky at Mt. Davidson, S.F., 8 May (PSar) and a Gray at Big Sur R. mouth 6 May (JBo). The only Eastern Phoebe was 22–23 Mar at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (K. Clarke, ph. B. Hill).

It is not often that five species of kingbird are mentioned in one report, but such is the case this spring. Tropical Kingbirds are rare spring migrants, so one at Hayward R.S. 7 Apr–21 May was an exciting find (P. Dramer, m.ob.). The wintering bird at L. Merced, S.F., lingered to 29 May (HuC) and another was at Aquatic Park 25 Mar (ASH). *Santa Clara*'s resident pair of Cassin's Kingbirds were noted nest-building along San Felipe Rd. 23 Apr (MJM). *San Mateo*'s wintering **Thick-billed Kingbird** was last noted near Half Moon Bay 27 Mar (RWR). An impressive movement of 37 Western Kingbirds in just 45 min flew n. over Coyote Pt., *San Mateo*, 21 Apr (RSTh). An Eastern Kingbird returned to Lava Lakes Ranch, *Siskiyou*, 31 May (RE), where nesting was suspected the past two summers.

SHRIKES THROUGH THRASHERS

The lone report of Northern Shrike was from e. *Yolo* 9 Mar (EDG). A singing male **White-eyed Vireo**, first heard but not identified 20 May (N. McMahon), was found again 24 May at Big Sur R. mouth (JBo, E. Price, S. Scott, J. Scott; †DR, m.ob.). There had been no summer records for the Region, but this bird appeared territorial and was present well into June. Coastally rare Plumbeous Vireos were at McKinleyville, *Humboldt*, 20–31 May (GSL, †DFx, †JCP) and Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, 23 May (RS). Three Red-eyed Vireos were coastal, as is expected: Natural Bridges S.P. 17 May (first spring *Santa Cruz* record; SGer); Lincoln Park, S.F., 22 May (BrF); and Pt. Reyes 23 May (RS).

Five or six Yellow-billed Magpies at three locations in S.F. 14 Mar–4 Apr (A. Contreros, S. Davies, D. Zito) and one at Purisima Creek, coastal *San Mateo*, 25–26 Mar (RSTh, MCM) were considered escapees by some, but it should be noted that there are several coastal spring records that suggest natural origin may be plausible for this normally sedentary species. A flock of 130–150 Purple Martins near Clear L. Oaks, *Lake*, 6 May was perhaps the largest concentration yet recorded in the Region (LLu, CLu, RS). No Townsend's Solitaires were reported to have overwintered in the lowlands, but migrants were noted at Mt. Davidson, S.F., 12–14 Apr (BrF, PSar) and Monte Bello O.S.P., *Santa Clara*, 20 Apr (D. Eckdahl, C. Vigno). A wintering Sage Thrasher at Miller/Knox R.S., *Contra Costa*, stayed until 7 Mar (C. Lou); another was in the Arcata bottoms, *Humboldt*, 10 Apr (P. Herrera).

WARBLERS

Spring "eastern" warblers appeared in four categories. First, there were lingering winterers: Tennessee at L. Merced, S.F., to 6 Mar (J. Clark); 5 Palms; 2 coastal Black-and-whites; and a Northern Waterthrush at Arcata, *Humboldt*, to 2 Mar (E. Elias). Next there was the arrival of two potential breeding colonies for Northern Parula. The first male appeared at Big Sur R. mouth 3 May and ≤3 were singing by month's end (JBo, m.ob.). At Bear Valley, Pt. Reyes N.S., *Marin*, 2 singing males and a female were present after 27 May (RS, LLu, CLu). Additional singing males were at Five Brooks, *Marin*, 27 May (DSg) and on Gazos Creek, *San Mateo*, 6 May (†AME).

A few rare warblers apparently winter not far south and come back up the California coast in a "normal" migration pattern in April/early May. Birds that might fit this category were 2 Palms, 19 Apr at Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo* (C. Miller), and singing at Carmel, *Monterey*, 27 Apr (H. Osborn). Most unexpected was an alternate-plumaged female Blackpoll Warbler near Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, 26–27 Apr (B. Scharfenstein, M. Bourett, †DLSu). There are no previous April records for California of this South American wintering warbler, with the previous early record being 6 May 1982 on F.I. (P. Pyle and R. P. Henderson, *W. Birds* 22:41–84).

Finally there are the mid-to-late May wayward migrants we have come to expect, especially around Memorial Day. Among the more exciting were a Blackburnian at Pt. Reyes 23 May (RS), a singing Prothonotary at Gazos Creek 27 May (RSTh), and 3 Hoodeds: a female banded 18 May at Big Sur R. mouth (JBo) and 2 in S.F. 27–29 May (PSar et al.). More expected coastal spring vagrants were single Tennessee and Chestnut-sided Warblers, 2 Magnolias, 4 Black-and-whites, 3 American Redstarts, and 2 Northern

Waterthrushes. Interior vagrants in *Mono* in late May included 5 Black-and-whites, a singing Chestnut-sided at Benton Hot Springs 28 May (J.&D. Parker), and a Magnolia along Lee Vining Creek 31 May (S. Heath, *fide* KNN).

Remarkable were spring vagrants in C.V., where few have been recorded. Early surprises were a female American Redstart in Reichmuth Park, *Sacramento*, 8–13 Apr (†K. Guse) and a singing Lucy's Warbler in Stockton, *San Joaquin*, 18 Apr (†DGY). These were overshadowed by a singing Mourning Warbler 28 May at White Slough W.M.A., Lodi, *San Joaquin* (†DGY). It was unusual in possessing eye-arcs, a feature known for some first-year male Mournings, but had an apparently diagnostic bib pattern (CBRC will review). Most exceptional was a singing Canada Warbler all-too-briefly seen in Kiln Canyon, sw. *San Joaquin*, 29 Apr (†DGY). This species winters in South American and is a late migrant in the East. The April date is completely unprecedented and a month earlier than the prior early record (28 May 1983 at Pt. Reyes).

TANAGERS TO SPARROWS

Summer Tanagers were at King City 5 May (RC, HBa) and banded 12 May at Big Sur R. mouth, both *Monterey*. An imm. male in molt in Tilden Park, *Contra Costa*, 26–31 Mar (G. Griffeths) apparently wintered. Single Clay-colored Sparrows at Ukiah 4 Mar (GEC, CEV) and Potter Valley 15–27 Mar (GEC), both *Mendocino*, and along Purisima Creek 4 Mar (RSTh) likely wintered; one in alternate plumage in the Sutter Bypass 26 Apr (†JCS) was a most unexpected migrant and a *Sutter* first. Additional wayward sparrows were a Brewer's at Dry Lagoon, *Humboldt*, 6 Apr (KI) and a Vesper along Ten Mile R., *Mendocino*, 19 May (JRW).

Swamp Sparrows in our Region are primarily late fall vagrants or winterers in coastal marshes; spring records are few. One of the two wintering at Stevens Creek tidal marsh was singing 21 Apr (WGB), as was another 23 Apr at Sunnyvale (PJM), giving us departure dates for *Santa Clara*. Migrants are apparently on the move by early March, accounting for records at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, 5 Mar (MMtt, CEV); L. Merced 8–21 Mar (EDG et al.); and Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, 11 Mar (K. Mize *fide* JTr). Truly unexpected, though, were Swamp Sparrows banded at Big Sur R. mouth 2–3 May (JBo) and at Lower Mill Creek, *Mono*, 17 May (WRch, Z. Smith).

A White-throated Sparrow was quite late 25–26 May in Shasta Valley, *Siskiyou* (RE), as was an injured Golden-crowned in *Humboldt* through 31 May (P. Spruance). Late dates of wintering Harris's Sparrows were 12 Mar at Grizzly I., *Solano* (MMtt), 12 Mar at Lava Beds N.M., *Siskiyou* (RE), and 20 Apr at McKinleyville, *Humboldt* (GSL, LPL). Over 100 years ago, ornithologist L. M. Loomis considered nesting Dark-eyed Juncos on the *Monterey* coast to be "very significant" and named them a separate race, *pinosus* (for nearby Pt. Pinos). Juncos still breed on the Monterey Peninsula and in S.F. parks, but their nesting in developed lowlands at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* (DLSu), and at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* (JTr), amazed local birders. The former nest was depredated by jays but the latter hatched 4 young, providing the first known C.V. floor breeding.

LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES

The winter's invasion of C.V. longspurs concluded with ≤6 McCown's along Browning Rd., *Colusa*, to 16 Mar (LLu, CLu et al.) and ≤30 in ne. *Yolo* to 1 Apr (EDG et al.). Eleven coastal or Bay Area Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in late May from *Humboldt* to *Monterey* were impressive; about half were at urban feeders. Indigo Buntings were on territory at three sites in *San Mateo* by late May (including a territory straddling the *Santa Clara* border at Monte Bello O.S.P. after 24 May; R. Lefkowitz, m.ob.). A male on Mt. Burdell, *Marin*, had returned for its 4th consecutive spring 20 May (RS), while one near Ukiah, *Mendocino*, had returned for a 2nd year by 31 May (JRW). An Indigo Bunting at a Santa Rosa, *Sonoma*, feeder 21 Mar (P. Gravel) must have wintered nearby; an additional 4 birds in late May were normal late spring vagrants. A male Dickcissel in Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz*, 12 Mar–17 Apr (H.&B. Donald, †DLSu, ph. C. Cummings, m.ob.) thrilled at least 50 observers, but only one (GSL) enjoyed the male Dickcissel 28 May w. of Orick, *Humboldt*.

Great-tailed Grackles are now filling in various holes in their expanding range in our Region. Multiple birds were found at new sites in *Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, *Alameda*, *Contra Costa*, and *Mono* while others were at the extreme edges of their expansion at Arcata, *Humboldt*, 21–28 Mar (SWH et al.); 3 in Redding, *Shasta*, 24 Apr–16 May (B&CY, BED); and 2 males at L. McSwain, *Mariposa*, 29 Apr (C. Morris, J. Buffa). The only Orchard Oriole was an ad. male at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz*, 7 Apr (A. Kopitov). The female Baltimore Oriole in Golden Gate Park, S.F., lingered to 15 Mar (N. White).

A male Lesser Goldfinch below Junipero Serra Peak, *Monterey*, 20 May was entirely black above (including the auriculars; JND); this aberration is apparently latent within our local population (several other similar records nearby) and does not suggest vagrancy from black-backed races to the south. Lawrence's Goldfinches were found widely in the coast ranges; nesting was documented w. of usual sites, including several along the coast in *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* (m.ob.).

Exotics: Evidence of nesting by escaped Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata*; aka Scaly-breasted Munia) was obtained at Almaden L. Park, *Santa Clara*, 8–26 Mar (carrying nesting material; RWR, JMa) and Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* (behavioral evidence; AJ). These finches have been widely introduced around the world, including s. California, but let us hope they do not expand on their toehold here.

Corrigenda: In *Field Notes* 52:120 it was erroneously reported that there were four California records of white-rumped Whimbrels of the race *variegatus* when, in fact, only two records had been documented (see *N. Am. Birds* 53:232–236).

Cited observers (county coordinators boldfaced): Alan Baldridge, Helen Banks, Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman**, **Penelope K. Bowen**, Rita Carratello, Jeff N. Davis, George E. Chaniot, **Luke Cole**, **Hugh Cotter**, **Bruce E. Deuel**, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom**, Andrew Engilis, Brian Fitch, **David Fix**, Nick & Mary Freeman, **James H. Gain**, Steve Gerow, **Steven A. Glover**, Phil E. Gordon, Edward D. Greaves, Stanley W. Harris, Joan M. Humphrey, Ken Irwin, Alan S. Hopkins, Steve N. G. Howell, **John E. Hunter**, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer**, **Robin L.C. Leong**, Gary S. Lester, Lauren P. Lester, Nick Lethaby, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis**, John Mariani, Matthew Matthiessen, **Peter J. Metropulos**, Mark C. Miller, Kristie N. Nelson, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, **Jude C. Power**, Peter Pyle, Robert W. "Bob" Reiling, Will Richardson, **Robert J. Richmond**, **Don Roberson**, John C. Robinson, Michael M. Rogers, **Ruth A. Rudesill**, Paul Saraceni, Barry Sauppe, Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, **Emilie Strauss**, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu), Ronald S. Thorn, John Trochet, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren**, **Jerry R. White**, **Bob & Carol Yutzy**. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but their contributions are noted and appreciated.

southern pacific coast

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(send all reports to McCaskie)

Most observers felt that there were few major waves of migrants this spring, and relatively few important rarities were found. Highlights include California's second Glossy Ibis (the first still under review by the CBRC), a Wilson's Plover, and both White-rumped and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. A Black-backed (Abeille's) Oriole in extreme sw. San Diego County was a potential natural vagrant.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Park, *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (S. Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, *Kern*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

A Pacific Loon near Seeley, *Imperial*, 13 Apr (GMcC) was migrating n. from the Gulf of California with Common Loons. A first-year Yellow-billed Loon at Pt. Mugu 26 Mar (DP, ST) was the first to be found in *Ventura*, and single birds flying n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 1 May (RR) and 19 May (RR) were seen during a 3-month survey for Gray Whales.

A Laysan Albatross over the Tanner Bank sw. of San Clemente I. 22 Apr (TMcG) was in an area where small numbers can be anticipated; single birds in the Los Angeles Basin at Baldwin Park 1 Apr (*fide* DG) and San Pedro 30 Apr (*fide* MH) were onshore and suspected to have been human-assisted. Seventy-eight Black-footed Albatrosses were seen from Pt. Piedras Blancas 16 Apr–1 Jun, with 26–28 passing 10–14 May (RR). Two Northern Fulmars in the San Pedro Channel 20 May (KLG) and single birds off Pt. Piedras Blancas 23 and 24 May (RR) were the only ones reported, indicating just how few were in s. California waters. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was off Pt. Piedras Blancas 11 Apr (RR), and a Manx Shearwater was seen from there 28 May (RR).

An ad. Little Blue Heron at S.E.S.S. 13 May (SK) was the only one reported away from coastal *San Diego*. Two ad. Reddish Egrets near Imperial Beach, *San Diego*, 14 May (YI) were probably spring overshoots from Baja California. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that has been associating with nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons in La Jolla, *San Diego*, since Oct 1981 was again present 9 Apr–6 May (AME). Another was near the San Diego R. mouth 3 May (EW). An ad. **Glossy Ibis** in alternate plumage near Calipatria, *Imperial*, 27 May (ph. MAP) was the 2nd to be reported in California.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, casual stragglers to California, were at S.E.S.S. 28 May+ (AK). Twenty Brant on L. Henshaw in the mountains of *San Diego* 5 Mar (GMcC) and 25 near Seeley 28 Apr (GMcC) were the largest flocks reported inland; large numbers regularly move n. from wintering grounds in the Gulf of California across se. California to the Pacific coast each spring, and are normally "grounded" only during stormy conditions. Single Brant near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 16 Apr (MSanM) and 13 May (MSanM), one in Inyokern, *Kern*, 16 May+ (TM), and 2 in Bishop, *Inyo*, 11 May (T&JH), with one still present at the end of the period, were all outside the area of expected inland occurrence. Two Eurasian Wigeons still on Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 22 Apr (JSR) were the latest of the birds present during the winter. A male Eurasian Green-winged Teal, rare but regular along the Pacific coast, was in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 3–21 Apr (PEL). The male Harlequin Duck found in Imperial Beach 7 Nov was still present 17 May (TS). Forty Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw 5 Mar (GMcC) was the largest flock reported inland; they, like the Brant, regularly migrate across se. California each spring; one at C.L. 26 May (SS) was the only one reported away from the area of expected inland occurrence in the se. portion of the Region. A Long-tailed Duck on Oso Flaco L., *San Luis Obispo*, 15 Apr–20 May (LM) was not only late but also slightly inland, where unexpected.

At least one Harris's Hawk was still present around Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, 22 Mar (JR) and a pair was at a nest near Boulevard, *San Diego*, in May (PU); these birds are remnants of the 1994–1995 influx. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk around S.F.K.R.P. 1–28 Apr (SAL, RAB) was the 3rd to be found in *Kern*. A Merlin on Camp Pendleton, *San Diego*, 21 Apr (JWK) was late for s. California.

PLOVERS THROUGH PUFFINS

Four wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers

remained at Seal Beach, *Orange*, through 6 Apr (KSG), one remained at Imperial Beach through 11 May (RP), and one inland near Brawley, *Imperial*, 13 Apr (GMcC) was probably the same bird seen in this area in February. A **Wilson's Plover** in Coronado, *San Diego*, 5 May (ph. RP) established the 9th record for California. Two apparent "pure" American Oystercatchers along with a hybrid American × Black paired with a Black Oystercatcher were found on San Nicolas I. 20 May (WW).

Because Solitary Sandpipers are scarce in spring, single birds near Bishop 5–7 Apr (NH) and 19 Apr (CG), 3 in e. *Kern* between 21 and 30 Apr (JCW, TEW), and one at S.E.S.S. 26 Apr (DSC) were of note. The Wandering Tattler found at S.E.S.S. 5 Mar remained through 24 May (BMi). A Whimbrel at Desert Center, *Riverside*, 22 Apr (RHi) was at the time peak numbers were passing through the Salton Sea, but was at a desert location where virtually unrecorded. The only Ruddy Turnstones found away from the Salton Sea were one at Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 15 May (T&JH) and 4 in the s. San Joaquin Valley near Lost Hills, *Kern*, 11 May (JS). Two Black Turnstones on the Salton Sea near Salton City, *Imperial*, 6 Jun (GMcC) and one at N.E.S.S. 11 June (MAP) were inland and unusually late for spring migrants. A Surfbird, most unusual inland, was near Lancaster 13–21 May (KL). The only Sanderling reported inland away from the Salton Sea was one on Tinemaha Res. 19 May (T&JH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper on Tinemaha Res. 5 May (T&JH) was the only one found this spring. A **White-rumped Sandpiper** photographed at C.L. 25–29 May (SS) was the first to be found in *Kern* and about the 10th for s. California. A Pectoral Sandpiper, rare anywhere in California in spring, was in Lakeside, *San Diego*, 10–11 May (OO). An alternate-plumage **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** photographed at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 16–18 May (PK) was one of few found in California in spring. The Stilt Sandpiper that spent the winter in *Orange* was last seen 2 Apr (DB). A Red Phalarope at N.E.S.S. 26 May (MAP), one near Los Hills 25 May (JS), and another in the Saline Valley, *Inyo*, 24 May (REM) were inland, where rare.

A Long-tailed Jaeger at the Cortez Bank s. of San Clemente I. 22 Apr (TMcG) is one of few reported in spring in s. California waters. About 35 Franklin's Gulls were found in the Region 15 Apr–2 Jun, with most in the e. portion but with at least 11 along the coast, including 6 migrating n. past Pt. Piedras Blancas between 9 and 22 May (RR). A Little Gull was seen migrating n. past Goleta Pt., *Santa Barbara*, 9 Mar (DC). An ad. Heermann's Gull was inland at S.E.S.S. 3 Mar+ (JEP, DSP). At least one Western Gull was present inland at S.E.S.S. 30 Apr+ (GMcC). A Least Tern, rare but regular inland on the Salton Sea, was at N.E.S.S. 19 May (GMcC). Six Xantus's Murrelets seen from Pt. Piedras Blancas 23–28 May (RR) were the earliest ever found in *San Luis Obispo*; these birds normally move n. after nesting. A Tufted Puffin off Pt. Piedras Blancas 30 May (RR) was one of a few ever seen from shore in s. California.

DOVES THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS

A White-winged Dove in Goleta 6 May (HPR) was the only one reported on the coast. An Inca Dove was at the Butterfield Stage Station in the Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. 5–24 Apr (BMu) and another was in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, 25 Mar+ (BSt); this species is expanding its range in s. California, so nesting in these areas in the near future can be anticipated. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Bakersfield, *Kern*, 18 May (JCW) was an unusually early spring migrant; one at G.H.P. 4 Jun (KSG) was on a more expected date for first spring migrants. A Common Nighthawk at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, 20 May (T&JH) ties the earliest date for a spring migrant anywhere in California. Acorn Woodpeckers near Bishop 13 May (J&DP), at Butterbredt Springs near Cantil, *Kern*, 26 Apr (JCW), and at nearby G.H.P. 30 May–3 Jun (JH) were far from any known locations of normal occurrence.

A Willow Flycatcher at S.E.S.S. 6 May (GMcC) was somewhat early for a spring migrant. A wintering Eastern Phoebe in Costa Mesa, *Orange*, remained through 26 Mar (RF), one in Chino, *San Bernardino*, was last seen 16 Mar (JEP), and another was found near Corona, *Riverside*, 16 Mar (JEP). The wintering Thick-billed Kingbird near Santa Paula, *Ventura*, remained through 22 Apr (BSi). Four Eastern Kingbirds in *Inyo* between 14 and 29 May (REM, T&JH) was an average number for this area of California. Reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, a rare straggler to California, included single birds at Saratoga Springs, *San Bernardino*, 6 May (GP), F.C.R. 14–16 May (GW), South Belridge, *Kern*, 14 May+ (DDeT), Goleta 24–26 May (MB), and San Diego 22–27 May (EW).

A Bell's Vireo at Butterbredt Springs 29–30 Apr (SF) is one of only a few found away from known nesting localities in s. California. A Yellow-throated Vireo was photographed in Torrance, *Los Angeles*, 27 May (KL). A singing Blue-headed Vireo well-studied in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, 13 May (JEP, BED, DRW) is one of few reported in California at this time of the year. Single Hutton's Vireos at Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, 18 Mar (M. San Miguel Jr.) and Butterbredt Springs 1–8 Apr (KSG) were e. of the species' range in California and at desert locations where seldom reliably reported. A Red-eyed Vireo at G.H.P. 20 May (JCW) was the only one reported away from S.F.K.R.P., where this species is now present every summer and has nested. A Philadelphia Vireo, most unusual in spring, was banded and photographed at Oso Flaco L. 2–4 Jun (PN). The only Gray Catbird reported was near Bow Willow in Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. 31 May (DSe). The Blue Mockingbird found in Long Beach 5 Dec was last seen 25 Mar (KSG).

WOOD-WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

The only Tennessee Warblers reported were single birds in the town of Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo*, 27 May (PN) and another near Santa Ynez, *Santa Barbara*, 12 May (BKH). At least 20 Northern Parulas, with 10 along the coast and 10 in the e. part of the Region, 22 Apr–25 May was a little more than expected. The wintering Chestnut-sided Warbler in Long Beach remained through 9 Apr (KSG) and the one in Lake Forest, *Orange*, remained through 19 Apr (DRW); one in Wilmington, *Los Angeles*, 20 May (JI) was the only migrant reported this spring. Single Magnolia Warblers were in the Saline Valley 23–24 May (REM), at G.H.P. 21 May (JCW) and 27 May (KSG), and on the coast at Pt. Piedras Blancas 24–28 May (RR). A Black-throated Green Warbler, much rarer in spring than fall, was in the Saline Valley 23 May (REM). The Yellow-throated Warbler wintering in Huntington Beach remained through 2 Apr (DRW). Four Palm Warblers along the coast 20 Mar–30 Apr (BED, KSG, RS, REW), and single birds near Riverside 20 Apr (HK) and 30 Apr (JB), were in areas where not present in the winter, and are suspected to be migrants that wintered somewhere on the coast. An expected number of 12 Black-and-white Warblers, but far fewer than the expected 9 American Redstarts were reported at scattered locations 28 Apr–30 May. A Prothonotary Warbler was on Pt. Loma in San Diego 20–25 May (PAG). The Worm-eating Warbler found in Huntington Beach 18 Oct remained through 26 Mar (DRW). Two Ovenbirds on the coast, along with 7 in e. *Kern* and *San Bernardino* between 8 and 31 May, was about average. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** in Huntington Beach 30 Apr (DRW) was early for any vagrant in California, but typical of migration dates in the se. U.S. A Northern Waterthrush in Goleta 13 May (RPH) and 5

in *Inyo* and e. *Kern* between 18 and 31 May were fewer than expected. A Kentucky Warbler was at G.H.P. 30 May (DSt). Five Hooded Warblers were reported in the e. portion of the Region between 9 and 28 May (KSG, CMcG, MSanM), including *Imperial*'s first at In-ko-pah 28 May (MAP).

The Clay-colored Sparrow that wintered in Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, remained through 9 Apr (JMC), one was in the Saline Valley 16–18 May (REM) and one near Niland 11 May (PAG, GMcC) was only the 3rd to be found in *Imperial*. A Swamp Sparrow in Santa Maria to 9 Apr (JMC) was the latest remaining wintering bird, since single individuals in California City, *Kern*, 1–15 Apr (KSG) and in Bishop 30 Apr (JMF) were believed to be migrants. A Harris's Sparrow in Ridgecrest 29 Mar–24 Apr (PW) was the only one reported. The latest of the wintering White-throated Sparrows were one on Point Loma in San Diego to 19 Apr (REW) and another in Thousand Oaks, *Ventura* to 26 Apr (CB). A Grasshopper Sparrow in the Saline Valley 19 May (REM) was at an unexpected locality.

Fifteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 9–30 May was about average. Indigo Buntings continue colonizing some areas in s. California, as indicated by the presence of at least 6 territorial males scattered throughout the Region in May. A male Painted Bunting at F.C.R. 26–27 May (MSanM) is best considered a spring vagrant, but one in Santee, *San Diego*, 15 Apr (BMu) had more likely escaped from captivity. Dickcissels, rare in spring, were at F.C.R. 26–27 May (AME) and the Saline Valley 28–29 May (REM). A male Bobolink inland at Independence, *Inyo*, 21 May (RHu), a male at F.C.R. 27 May (MSanM), a female there 28 May (MSanM), and a male along the coast near the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, 20 May (BKH) was about average. A female Bronzed Cowbird in the Saline Valley 29 May (REM) was about as far n. as the species has been recorded in California. A Common Grackle in Long Beach 10 Mar (KSG) was the latest of ≤5 present in Jan. A wintering Baltimore Oriole remained in Long Beach through 12 Mar (KSG) and another was found in Highland Park, *Los Angeles*, 15 Mar (DSC), but a male on Pt. Vicente, *Los Angeles*, 16 Apr (KL) was believed to be a migrant. An adult male **Black-backed Oriole** (*Icterus abeillei*) near Imperial Beach 9 Apr–6 Jun (GH) was the first to be reported in the U.S. Whether this partly migratory oriole from central Mexico was a genuine vagrant or an escapee will be debated by the CBRC and others. However, based on distances other orioles have wandered from their normal ranges, this species might have the potential to reach the U.S.

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west indies

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It was a remarkable season for rare birds, with records expanding national and Regional lists. Reports span the length and breadth of the Region: Bermuda in the north, Aruba in the south, the Cayman Islands in the west, and Barbados in the east. Reports from the Bahamas, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands south to St. Lucia provide an avian smorgasbord from pelagics to endemics. The new frontier in West Indian ornithogeography is a renewed interest in pelagic birds, particularly out of Bermuda and Barbados. I say "renewed" because colleague Ruud van Halewijn probably initiated the "big bang" of expanded discovery during his voyages in the southeastern Caribbean in 1970–1972 (van Halewijn and Norton 1982). Look for the newly released review of Caribbean seabird ecology and distribution (D. S. Lee and B. A. Schreiber, eds.), largely an outcome of Ruud's work in the 1970s.

In the aftermath of hurricane *Lenny*, residents of St. Croix, St. Kitts, and Nevis remarked on the dearth of hummingbirds (C&KM). Despite the return of flowering plants, hummers were not in evidence. On the other hand, many small ponds benefitted from heavy rains associated with these tropical disturbances. Resident duck and shorebird populations respond to renewed

blooms of invertebrates and tend to delay migration, especially those not in breeding condition. The ephemeral nature of the ponds and localized rain patterns control where resident species will breed, resulting in inter- and intra-island movements, often between national boundaries. A coordinated effort to monitor resident anatids such as whistling-ducks and White-cheeked Pintail is desirable. Ponds on Vieques, Puerto Rico, were dry in late winter into March (DG). WB reports that fires on Abaco need to be monitored, especially in the area of the national park.

Abbreviations: Ba. (*Bahamas*); Bd. (*Barbados*); Be. (*Bermuda*), St Croix (*St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*).

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS

Andrew Dobson reports on a "good passage" of pelagic species during mid-March, including Manx Shearwaters estimated at 40/hr, with an occasional Cory's Shearwater. A pelagic trip 10 miles out off Barbados 29 Apr produced Audubon's Shearwater (2), Wilson's Storm-Petrel (11), and a **Swinhoe's Storm Petrel** carefully noted to be a dark-rumped Leach's-type Storm-Petrel (MF, MG et al.) The week before on a cruise returning from Aruba, MG recorded a Leach's Storm-Petrel and 2–3 **Band-rumped Petrels** in deeper waters off Bd. in late Apr. During a 22 Apr whale-watching trip off Challenger Bank, 11 mi sw. of Bermuda, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel was noted (AD). Gawn also reported a petrel with "jizz" like a Bulwer's Petrel.

A Neotropic Cormorant seen 18 May at El Dorado (TW et al.) was the first reported from S. Andros. On the s. side of St. Croix., C&KM found a Black-crowned Night-Heron 8 May near a small farm pond. This species is almost exclusively a freshwater species in the Virgin Islands, whereas Yellow-crowned is found along the coast and feeding on nestling seabirds, among other sea life, on offshore cays (RLN). West Indian Whistling-Duck, a Regionally-threatened species, is reported to be occasional (GM, *fide* TW) at El Dorado, S. Andros. Sightings from e. Cuba (4 at Playa Guardalavaca; 2 adults and 8 young at Parc Nacional Bahia de Naranjo), the Cayman Islands, and the cen. Bahamas are encouraging and offer some hope that conservation of this endemic *Dendrocygna* is possible. A female Eurasian Wigeon was last seen at Be. 14 Apr (MA). A male Tufted Duck remained until 29 Apr (EA) after moving from Spittal Pond, Be., to new accommodations at Warwick Pond.

An Osprey, undoubtedly *carolinensis*, lingered at Christiansted, St. Croix, 7 May (C&KM). Ponds and lagoons in spring on the e. Puerto Rican bank tend to attract non-breeding migrants, although a rudimentary osprey nest was found at Krause Lagoon, St. Croix, in the late 1980s (FS,JY). Two Snail Kites were seen at Cauto Christo, Cuba, 4 Apr (BM). Northern Harriers were at Casaurina Point, Abaco, 27 Mar (TW) and at San Salvador, Bahamas, 2–9 Apr (J & TG). Rarely observed or reported is Gundlach's Hawk. One was seen (RL, RS, JW) near El Salton, Cuba, 4 Apr (*fide* BM). A Crested Caracara was seen 1 Apr at Playa Guardalacava, Cuba (BM). A **Black Rail** was heard at Owens Town, Andros, 30–31 Mar (TW), providing only the 3rd report from the Bahamas. A tape was played to entice the bird into view, but it simply replied and stayed hidden (*fide* TW). An unexpected find in the Pignon, Central Plateau, Haiti, was a Limpkin 9 Mar (JRC,JB) and again in Apr (JB). Two were noted at Herrera, Cuba, 2 Apr (BM).

A Semipalmated Plover noted 3 May at Altoona Lagoon, St. Croix (C&KM) was a bit tardy, as was a Least Sandpiper. Ten Semipalmated Plovers and 30 Least Sandpipers were found at Great Salt Pond, St. Kitts, 10 May (C&KM), indicating a late movement from the Lesser Antilles. J&TG found a single American Avocet at San Salvador 2–9 Apr among a flock of 90 Black-necked Stilts. One of the most remarkable finds this season was a **Terek Sandpiper** photographed 1 May at Congo Rd, Christchurch, Bd., (MF), a first for the West Indies. More details are expected elsewhere. On a cruise returning to Bd. from Aruba, Mark Gawn recorded an intermediate ad. **South Polar Skua** 24 Apr. An ad. Parasitic Jaeger was noted in the harbor at Aruba 24 Apr. At Salt River, w. of Christiansted, St. Croix., there were an estimated 100 Least Terns nesting 9 May (C&KM). Continued disturbance by dogs and people have probably limited any expansion of the population.

DOVES THROUGH SPARROWS

A Key West Quail-Dove was at South Andros 19 May (WB, BH). Maybank reported that both Gray-headed and Blue-headed Quail-Doves were present (AMV) in a small 576-ha tract that includes some virgin forest at Salto del Guayabo, Cuba—but there is strong pressure from poachers. White managed to observe two races of Cuban Parrots, one at Grand Cayman 3 Mar and 4 Bahamas-race parrots at Hole-in-the-wall, 25 Mar. An unidentified exotic parrot was noted flying with Puerto Rican Parrots 7 Apr (JS); will these critically endangered parrots be further troubled by cross-breeding? A Burrowing Owl was noted 18 May at S. Andros (TW) , where GM reports that they are common near The Bluff Settlement. The Short-eared Owl seen at Cooper's Island, Be. (DB), was last seen 8 Mar. A pair of White-collared Swifts were noted along El Yunque Road near Guardalavaca, Cuba, 3 Apr (BM), where a pair of Cuban Trogons was also reported (BM). Ten Cave Swallows were noted at Playa Guardalavaca, Cuba, 10 Apr (BM). On S. Andros, five pairs were likely nesting in a cave 18–19 May (TW et al.). Originally reported in 1986 (RP), breeding could not be confirmed by Bainton, Hallet, and White during a search in early May 1997. However in 1999 McKenzie videotaped a group at another location, Swimming Hole, S. Andros, where they were also likely nesters. Three Cuban Solitaires were noted at Playa Pesquero 9 Apr (BM). Both Scaly-breasted and Pearly-eyed Thrashers were noted at Charlestown, Nevis, 15 May (C&KM). From whence did flocks of Cedar Waxwings arrive, as they were noted from several localities during April in Be. (AD)?

Many neotropical migrant warblers species can be found throughout Cuba at all seasons. In fact, Maybank reported that competent local guides contend that three summering species, including Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and American Redstart, breed; a similar claim has been proffered in Jamaica. Although this phenomenon may not occur annually, further investigation is warranted. MO reports singing Chestnut-sided Warbler and American Redstart from Rio Espiritu Santo, Puerto Rico, 10 Apr and 7 Apr, respectively. A Scarlet Tanager was noted at St. Lucia 18 Apr, one of few reported from the Windward Islands (JG). A singing Dickcissel 2 Apr in Paget was a good spring find (PS). A Horned Lark and 5 Snow Buntings were still present at the Civil Air Terminal, Be., until 9 & 22 Mar, respectively (PW).

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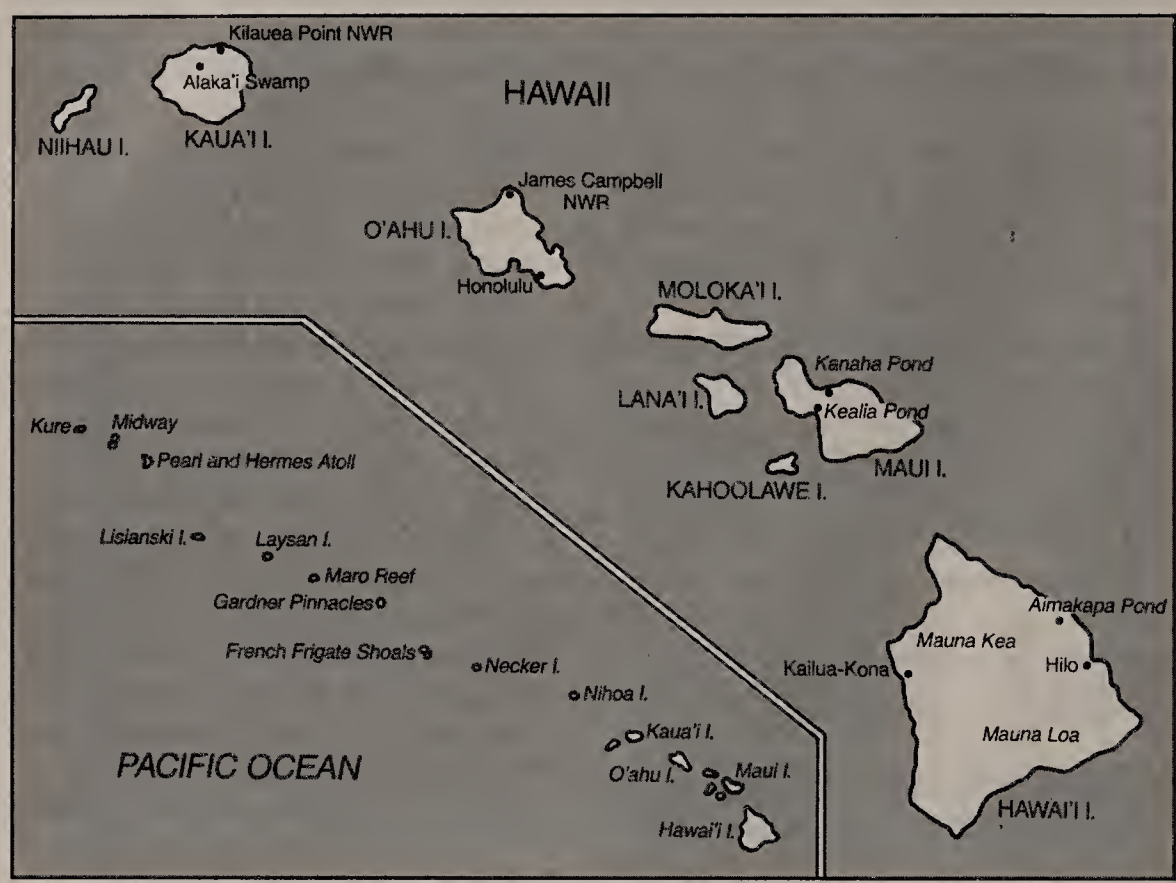
hawaiian islands



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Drought has continued for three years across the main Hawaiian Islands. Rainfall for the year through May was below normal at all locations, and Lihue and Honolulu had the driest May on record. The drought reduced wetland habitat, making some areas unavailable this year for nesting Hawaiian Stilts (*Endangered*). Greater efforts this spring to observe seabirds produced high numbers for some common species and reports of several infrequent visitors. Many reports of unusual species included few or no supporting details. All observers should make an effort to include supporting notes with reports of unusual species; without them much of the value of the observation is needlessly lost.

Abbreviations: F.F.S. (*French Frigate Shoals*); Hawai'i (*Hawai'i Island*); Kaua'i (*Kaua'i Island*); O'ahu (*O'ahu Island*); Ki'i (*Ki'i Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu*); K.P.N.W.R. (*Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kaua'i*); P.H.N.W.R. (*Pearl Harbor NWR, O'ahu*).

SA Several boat trips, along with good timing of sea-watching from shore, produced reports of unusually large numbers of some locally breeding seabirds and a good selection of uncommon visitors. Eight Bulwer's Petrels were counted on a boat trip out of Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i, 7 Apr (GK) and "lots" were seen closely on another trip in the same area 15 Apr (TP). Over 5000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters passed by Nawiliwili Lighthouse on the s. coast of Kaua'i between 1700 and 1900 on 25 Mar. The next evening 6000+ were counted and 10,000+ were tallied 1 Apr (CM). At K.P.N.W.R., Wedge-taileds offshore of the colony in the evening were estimated to be 2000+ 28 Mar and 6000+ 29 Mar (CM). The Sooty Shearwater is a regular transient through offshore Hawaiian waters, usually reported as singles or in small loose groups. This season an exceptionally high count of 500+ were observed in 1.5 hours flying ne. past Nawiliwili Lighthouse 1 Apr (CM). Counts up to 25 were reported 25 Mar–12 Apr. The large numbers of certain species may be an occasional feature each spring, but they may go unobserved unless the sea-watching effort is extensive, as it was this season.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH BOOBIES

One of three **Short-tailed Albatrosses** (*Endangered*) wintering at Midway Atoll remained until at least 17 Apr (NH, PP). More remarkable was an imm. Short-tailed Albatross observed closely and well on the ground near Laysan Albatross, 27 Mar at Pacific Missile Range near Barking Sands, K. *This is the first record of a Short-tailed Albatross in any of the main Hawaiian Islands (from Kaua'i eastward).* The observer is familiar with the species on Midway. The bird had departed by the next day. (Richard Daley *fide* CM, GS). Black-footed Albatrosses are seldom seen around the main islands, but they were reported this spring from K.P.N.W.R. 7 Mar (CM) and off Hanapepe, Kaua'i, 4 Mar (DK), and over Ki'i 7 Mar (MSi).

A dark-morph **Kermadec Petrel** seen regularly at K.P.N.W.R. beginning 24 Apr (CM) may be the same individual that has appeared the past two springs. Kermadecs are rarely reported in Hawaiian waters. Single birds reported as probable Mottled Petrels (no details) were seen flying past Nawiliwili Light 1 Apr and at sea near Lehua Islet off Ni'ihau 12 Apr. Another was reported between Midway and Kure 14 May (no details). Mottled Petrels are scarce visitors in Hawaiian waters. The rare bird highlight of this season was a **Streaked Shearwater** watched closely from a boat for an extended period off Port Allen, Kaua'i, 22 Apr (†SM, in press); no photos were obtained. A bird at Laysan in 1989 provided the only previous record for Hawaii. A Buller's Shearwater (scant details) was observed off Kaena Pt., Hawai'i 15 Apr (MaN), and a possible Buller's (no details) was reported 14 May between Midway and Kure. **Short-tailed Shearwaters** are seldom reported in Hawaiian waters, because of similarity with Sooty Shearwaters, but among the hundreds of Sooties passing Nawiliwili Light 25 Mar, 23 were carefully identified as Short-taileds and 2 more were seen from a boat off Port Allen, Kaua'i, 12 Apr. (†CM). The first Newell's Shearwater (*Threatened*) of the season was heard calling at K.P.N.W.R. 10 Apr (CM).

A **Red-billed Tropicbird**, rare in Hawaii, was seen at K.P.N.W.R. 18 Mar+ (CM). It may have been the same individual that appeared the previous two springs. Two adult Masked Boobies and a juvenile appeared at K.P.N.W.R. in Mar and one adult was seen there almost daily throughout Apr (CM). A few Masked Boobies reside on Moku Manu Islet off O'ahu, but they are rarely reported elsewhere in the main islands.

GEESE THROUGH TERNS

A flock of 35 *Endangered* Hawaiian Geese (Nene) was at K.P.N.W.R. 4 Mar (CM), and 33 including 2 goslings were seen at Pu'uanahulu, Hawai'i, 31 Mar (JL). Both furnished high counts for these localities. A group of 24 captive-raised Nene released at Hanalei N.W.R. in early Apr were all doing well in Jun (TT). Overwintering waterfowl had started to depart in early March. Four small, dark-breasted Canada Geese at Ki'i were last seen 10 Mar (GS). Two Tufted Ducks on Midway since Dec were still present mid-Apr (PP). One lone Northern Shoveler at Ki'i 30 Apr (PD) was the last migrant duck reported (typical). The Peregrine Falcon that has been seen on Midway was not reported after mid-April (PP).

The season's first nest of the Hawaiian Stilt (*Endangered*) was found 16 Mar at the Honouliuli Unit of P.H.N.W.R. (MSi). The first nest at Ki'i was found 14 Apr (quite late; MSi). By 31 May, 6 chicks had hatched at the Chevron Refinery at Kalaeloa (GS). The diversity of migrant shorebirds seems to have decreased in the past several years as sugar mills close and prime habitat provided by their wastewater settling ponds disappears. Flocks of Pacific Golden-Plovers were seen departing northbound 23 Apr (PD). A Killdeer (rare in Hawaii) was at Ki'i through 4 Mar (RM, m.ob.). The flock of 14 Bristle-thighed Curlews overwintering at Ki'i had decreased to 5 birds by 23 May. The remaining birds may be summering (MSi, PD). Bristle-thigheds were also seen on the N. Kona coast, Hawai'i, where rarely reported. One was at Makalawena Pond 22 Apr (LS) and 2 at Kona Village Resort 25 May (AD). A Whimbrel of the North American race, associating with the curlews at Ki'i, was last seen 24 Apr (MSi). A Whimbrel of the Asiatic race was seen on Midway 1 Mar (PP). Red Phalaropes were seen at Hanalei, Kaua'i, 4 Apr and Ki'i 6 Apr (MSi). Up to 7 Long-billed Dowitchers overwintered at Ki'i (PD, MSi, m.ob.). The last sighting, at Ki'i, was 26 Apr (MSi). Up to 3 Common Snipe wintered at Ki'i. At least one bird was still present 27 Mar (MSi). A scattering of gulls reached Hawaii during the season, the most unusual being a Black-legged Kittiwake on Midway 1 Mar (PP).

Least/Little Terns were reported at P.H.N.W.R. beginning the first week of May (MSi, DS). Two in breeding plumage were identified as Least Terns (PD). A Little/Least Tern at Midway 16 May and was joined by two others by end of May (NH). A tern at the Kona STP 31 Mar through at least 3 Apr was reported as a Whiskered Tern by an observer familiar with the species, but no photos were obtained (DP, JL). A Common Tern was observed in mid-April at the same location (vt. SM).

OWLS THROUGH PASSERINES

SA Things continue to look bleak for the Hawaiian Crow (Endangered). Only three wild birds remain. Because of continuing problems with the survival in the wild of captive-reared birds, none have been released this year (GK).

Pueo (the Hawaiian subspecies of Short-eared Owl) are now rarely reported on Oahu. One or 2 were seen at Ki'i 14 Mar+ (PD, MSt, m.ob.). A Guam Swiftlet was seen in N. Halawa Valley 2 May (RS). The introduced Japanese Bush-Warbler continues to expand its range on Hawai'i. Reports this spring came from Kona district on the w. side and from Ka'u district on the se. side, and from Hualalai in the nw.

A survey in the 'Alakai Swamp on Kaua'i did not turn up any of the rarest native forest birds, but two *Endangered* Puaiohi were found as were good numbers of the more common species. 'Akeke'e were especially common (TP). At Hakalau Forest N.W.R., Hawai'i *Endangered* 'Akepa and Hawai'i Creeper were fledging at the end of March. Some of the 'Akepa have been nesting in artificial nest cavities. There were lots of juvenile 'Apapane and 'I'iwi and a few juvenile 'Amakihi (JL). Many Black-rumped Waxbills (introduced) were at Pu'uanahulu, Hawai'i, 31 Mar (JL), where they are normally considered to be scarce.

Winter 1999-2000 season: The Hawaiian Islands report for winter 1999-2000 has been delayed. It will appear in a future issue of *North American Birds.*

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pictorial highlights

The European Golden-Plover remains a true rarity in North America. It is most regularly encountered in the Atlantic Provinces, often in the wake of spring storms. This bird at Cape Race, Newfoundland, 4–7 May 2000, fit the pattern nicely. The photo was taken 6 May. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish*

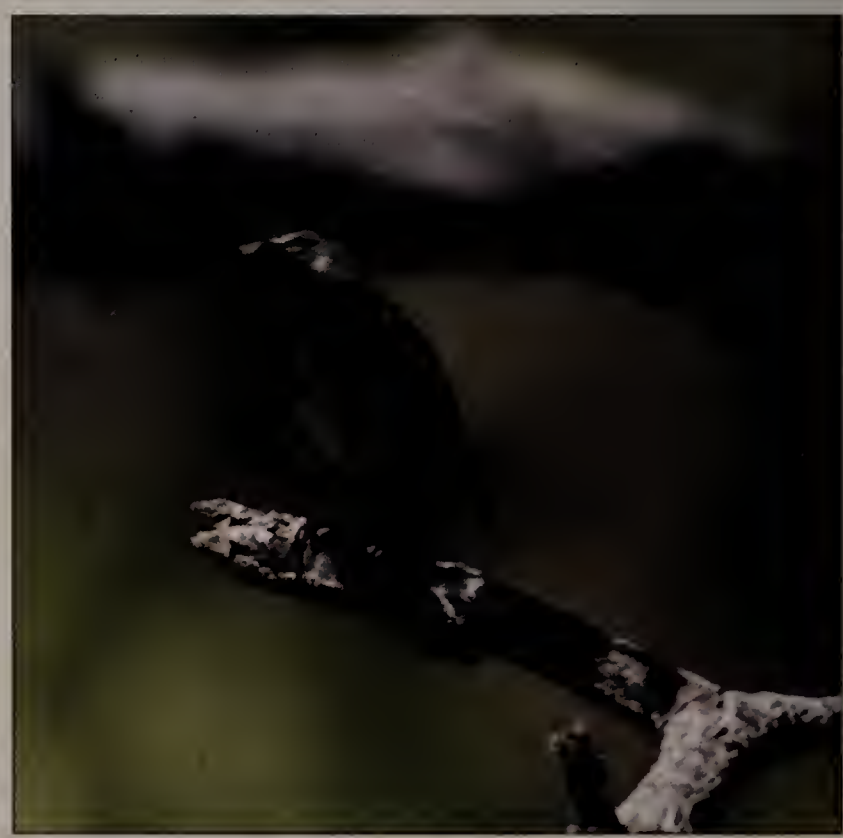
Following appearances off Massachusetts and Maryland and a brief stay at Fire Island, New York, this Yellow-nosed Albatross created a stir during its three days around Cape May, New Jersey, where this image was captured 23 May 2000. It later appeared off Rhode Island and again off Massachusetts. See the S.A. in the Hudson-Delaware region for details. *Photograph by Kevin T. Karlson*

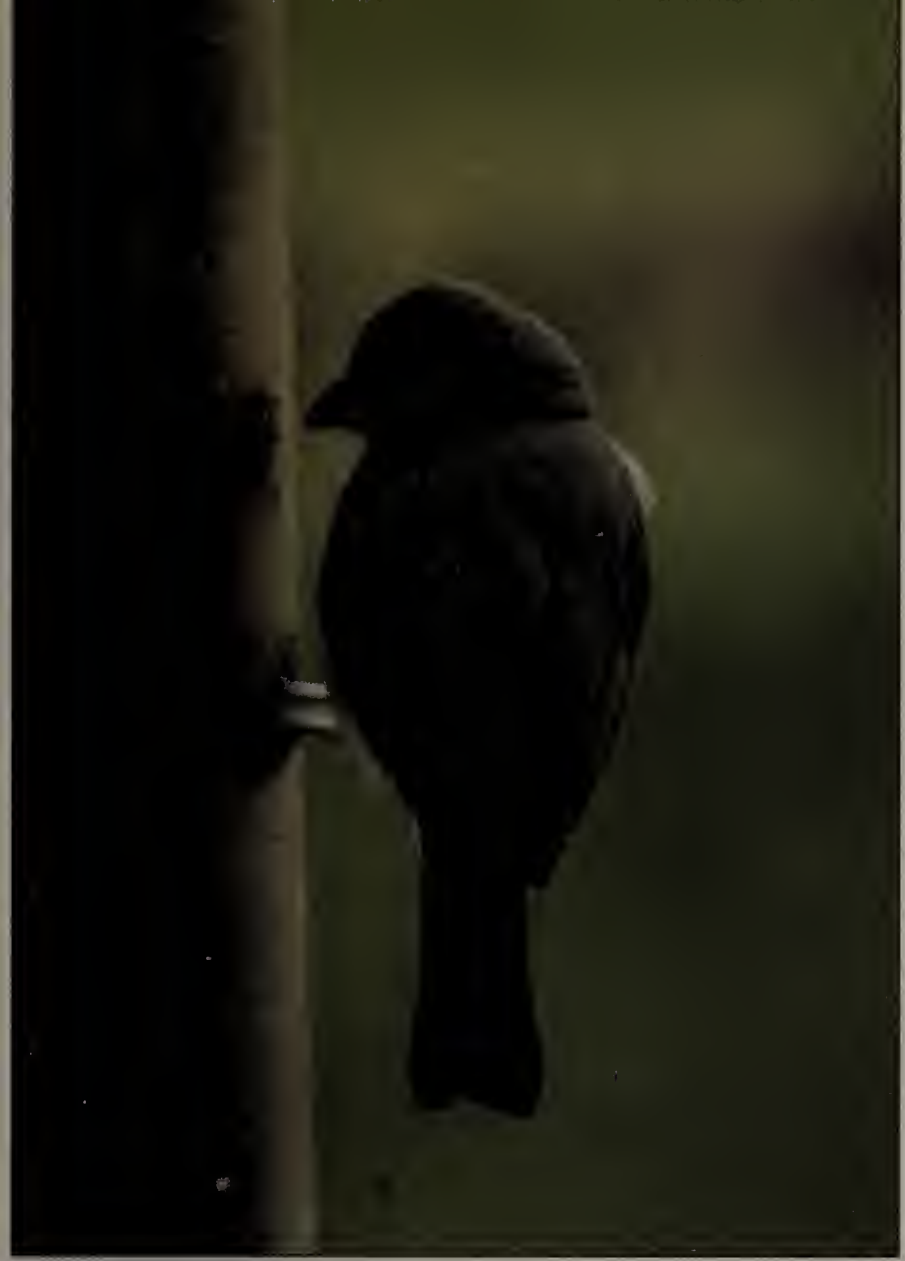
European thrushes continue to find Québec a fine place to visit. On the heels of a Fieldfare in winter 1999/2000, this Redwing appeared at Cap Tourmente National Wildlife Refuge, 9–13 March 2000, providing a first record for Québec and a ninth for North America. This image was captured 11 March. *Photograph by Jean-Marc Giroux*

Bell's Vireo is a rare bird on the Atlantic slope (see Patten 1999, *Cardinal* 41). Despite several prior hypothetical reports for Georgia, this Bell's at Oxbow Meadows, Columbus, 26–29 April 2000, was the first physically documented in the state. The photo was taken 27 April. *Photograph by Giff Beaton*

Only about the sixth documented in Texas in the past century, this singing male Gray-crowned Yellowthroat frequented Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge throughout spring 2000, and cooperated for a close-up photo on 5 April. *Photograph by Ray Bieber*

Hybrids are generally rare in nature but they are relatively frequent in some groups of birds. Although not nearly as promiscuous as ducks and gulls, the wood-warblers prolifically interbreed. Indeed, hybrid Blue-winged x Golden-winged and Townsend's x Hermit Warblers are relatively well-known. Other warbler hybrids are far scarcer, such as this male Blackpoll x Bay-breasted at Loggerhead Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida, 22 April 2000. *Photographs by Gordon Berkey*

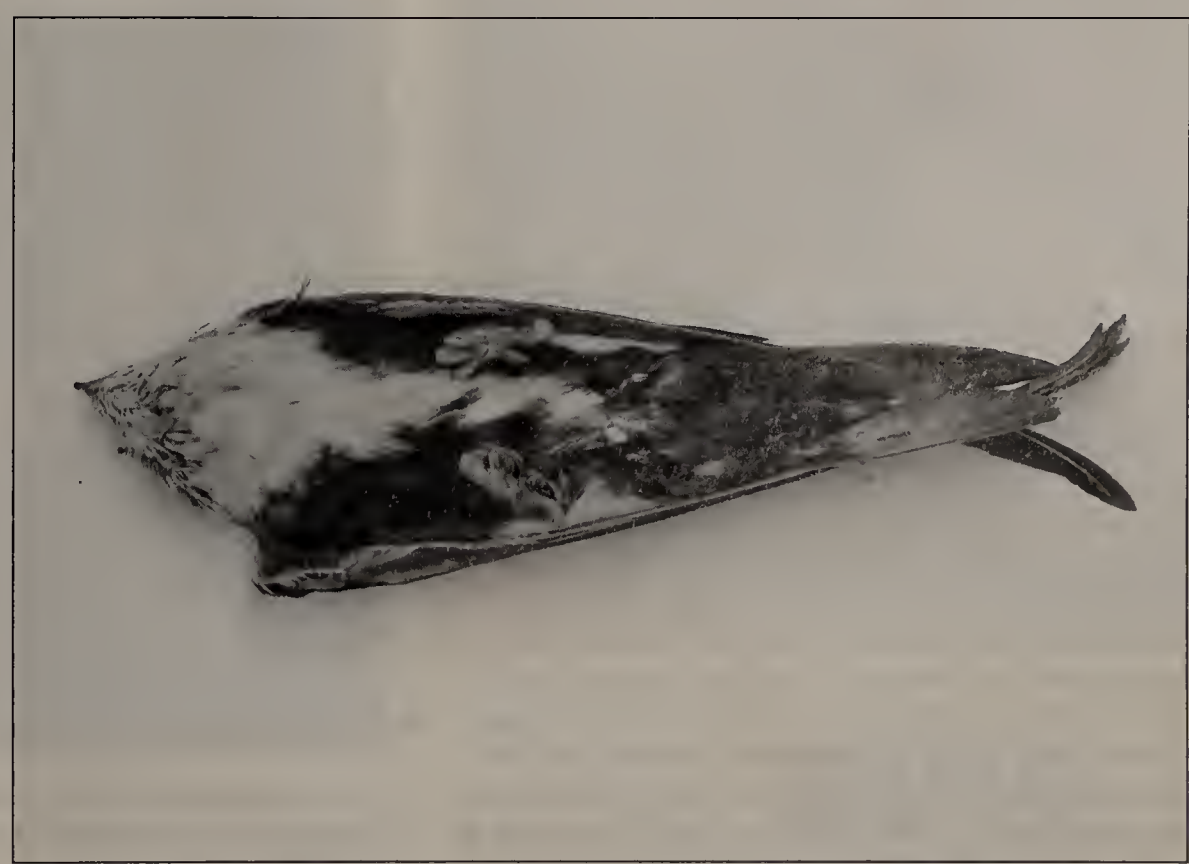




A regular spring stray north of its range, the Painted Bunting can bring excitement to any northerner, even if the bird is not an gaudy adult male. This apparent first spring bird (note the worn remiges and signs of partial molt) at a feeder in Gurnee provided Illinois with its fourth record. The image was captured the first day of its 21–22 April 2000 stay. *Photograph by Bill Mellen*

Away from Alaska, the distinctive Terek Sandpiper has occurred in North America on only three previous occasions (Massachusetts, British Columbia, and California) as an apparent fall vagrant (late June late August). This spring bird (right) at Christchurch, Barbados, 1 May 2000, with a Greater Yellowlegs (left) was thus remarkable and wholly unexpected. *Photograph by Martin Frost*

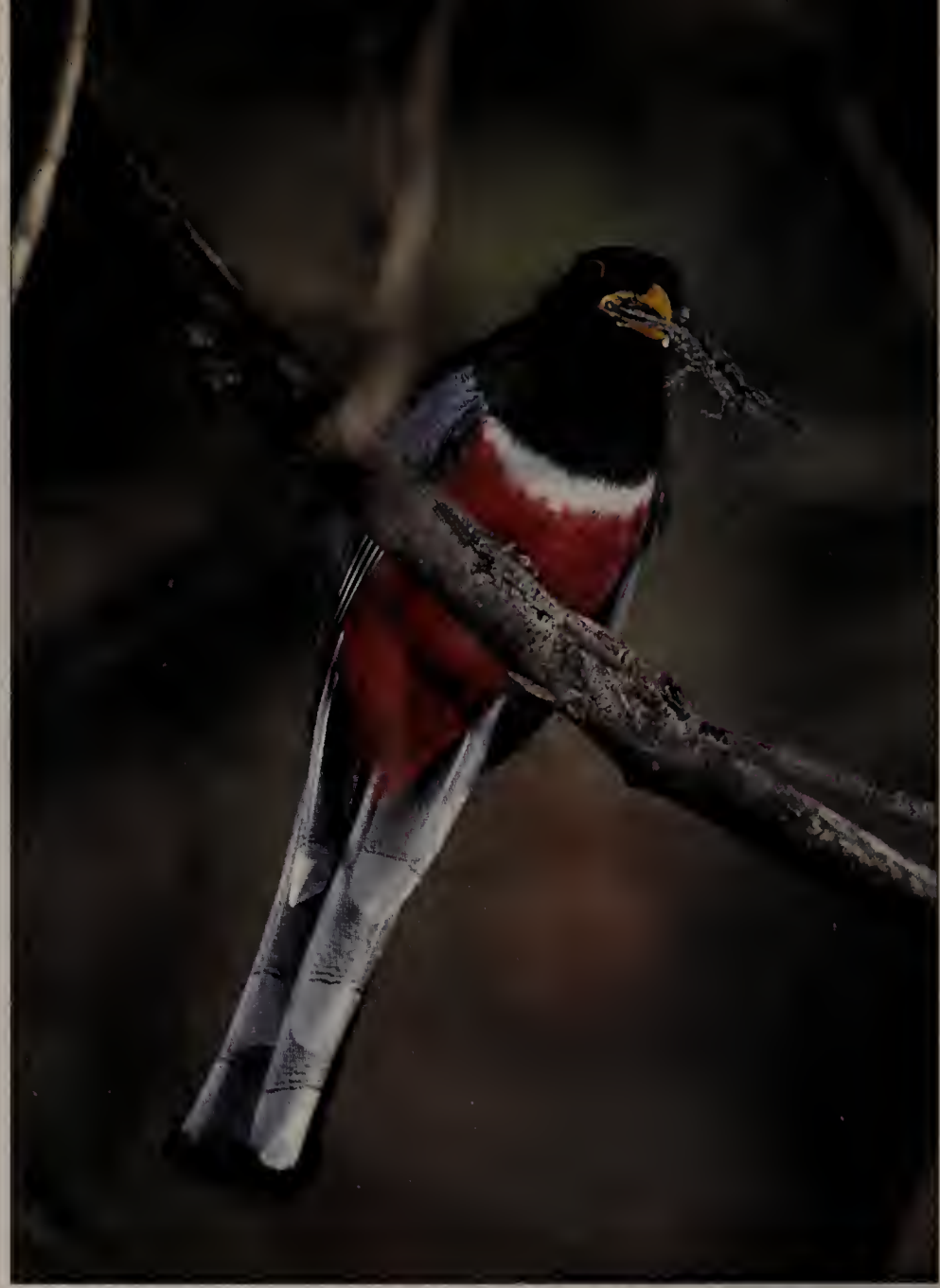
This adult Common Crane in central Nebraska was apparently a returning bird, as it appeared with staging Sandhill Cranes along the Platte River during March 2000, just as one had a year earlier. *Photograph by Christopher L. Wood*

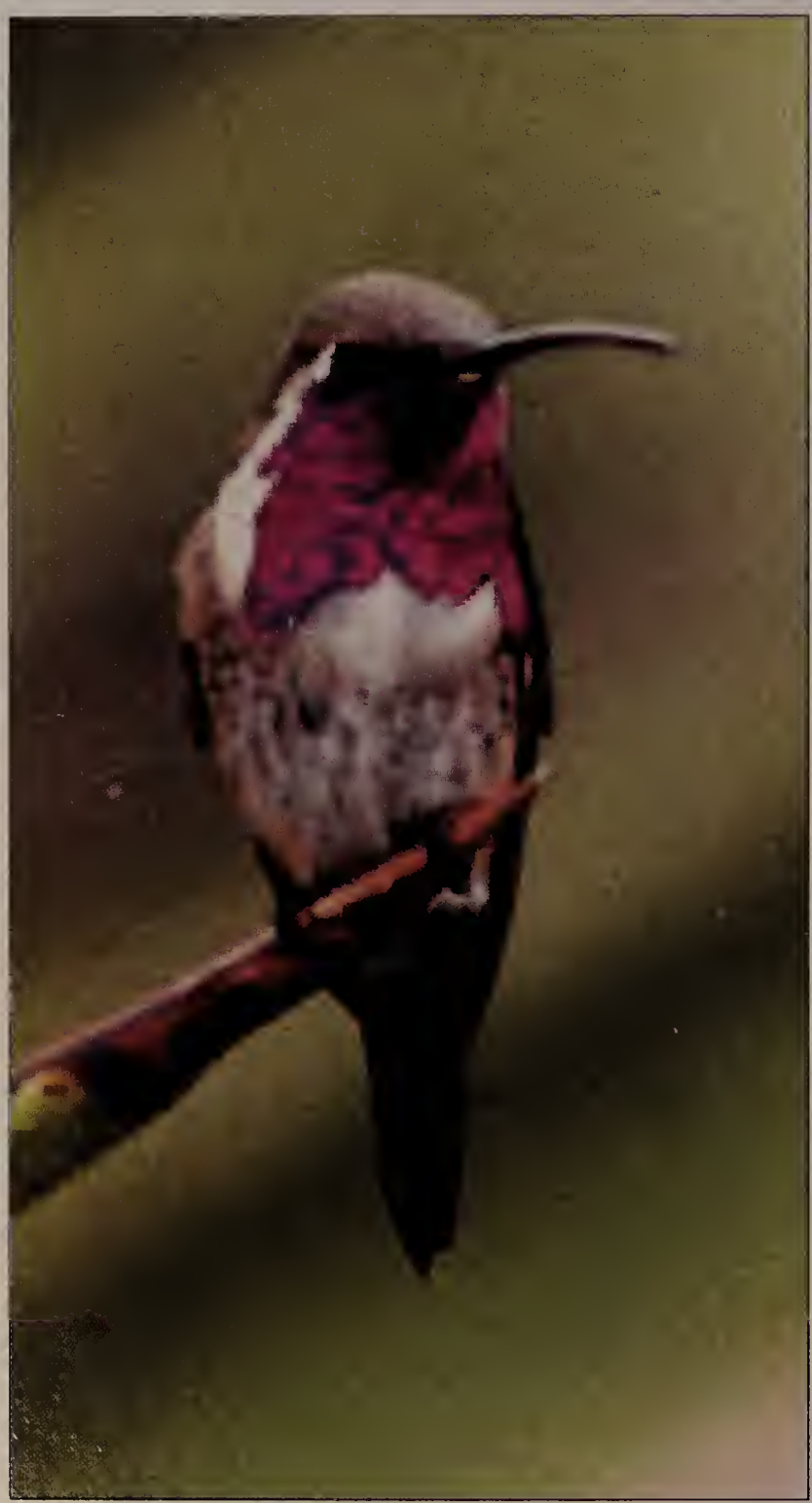


A surprising first for Minnesota was furnished by this White-throated Swift found exhausted in downtown Minneapolis 10 May 2000. It died shortly thereafter; the specimen was preserved at the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. *Photograph by Robert M. Zink*

pictorial highlights

The Elegant Trogon breeds in southeastern Arizona but it is seldom noted away from breeding locales, or in winter. This striking male at Lake Patagonia, a place the species does not breed, had likely wintered locally. *Photograph by Jim Flynn*





Long known as a breeder in Big Bend National Park, the Lucifer Hummingbird has only recently been detected elsewhere in Texas. Records are increasing for the Davis Mountains, where numerous Mexican strays have appeared in recent years. But this adult male Lucifer in *Gillespie* 14–23 May provided the first spring record for the Edwards Plateau. *Photograph by Heidi Schulz*

A remarkable find, yet perhaps not so unexpected, was this adult Slaty-backed Gull at Loveland, Colorado, 6 March–6 April 2000. North American records (away from Alaska) of this Siberian species have increased dramatically in the past decade, with birds documented south to the southeastern California and southern Texas and east to Québec and New York. *Photograph by Randy Siebert*

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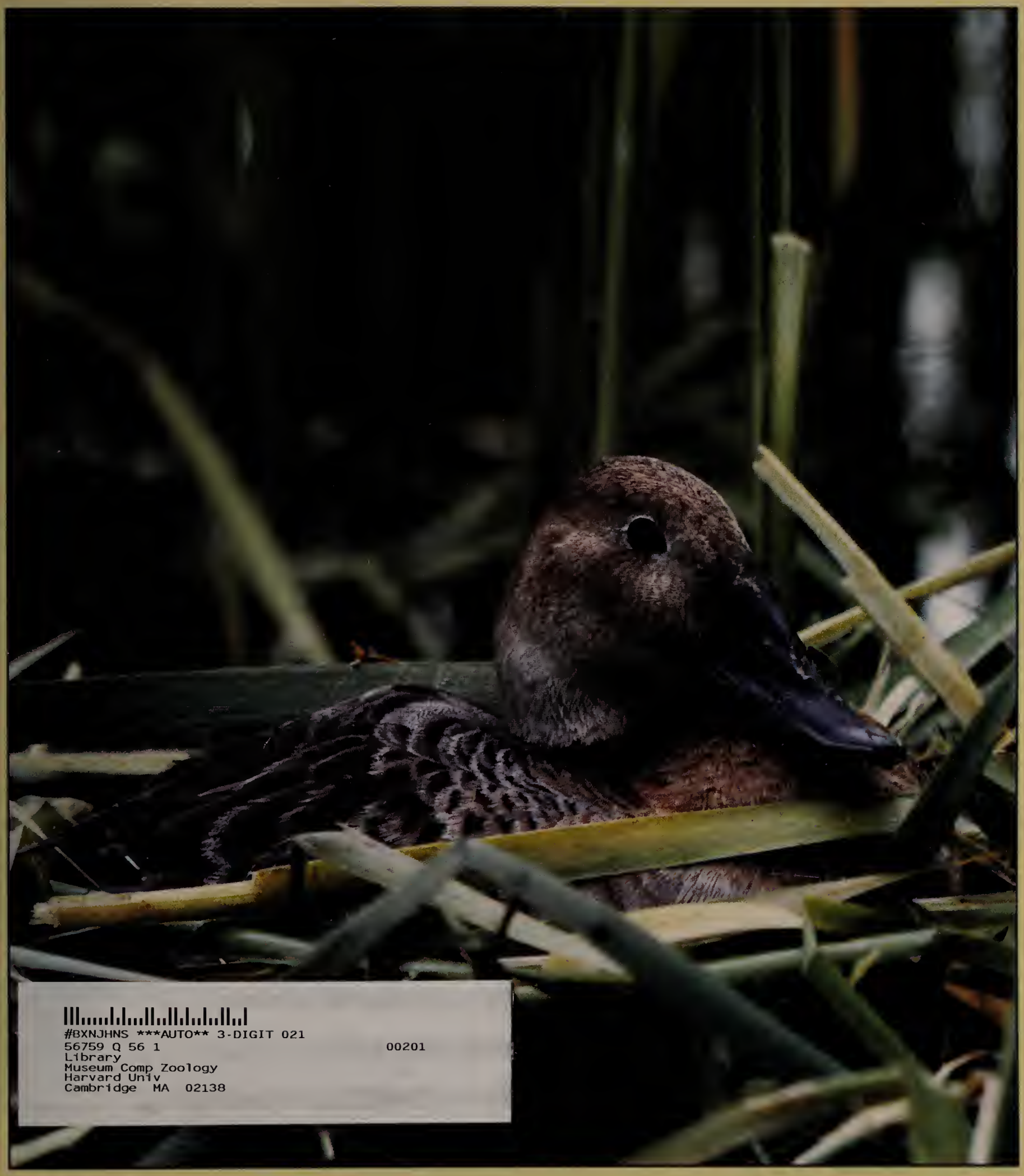

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the nesting season

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contents

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 54: NUMBER 4 • 2000

the nesting season: JUNE THROUGH JULY 2000

THE REGIONAL REPORTS

354 Atlantic Provinces
BRUCE MACTAVISH

356 Québec
PIERRE BANNON, YVES AUBRY, NORMAND DAVID, and SAMUEL DENAULT

358 New England
WAYNE R. PETERSEN

362 Hudson–Delaware
ROBERT O. PAXTON, JOSEPH C. BURGIEL, and DAVID A. CUTLER

367 Middle Atlantic Coast
MARSHALL J. ILIFF

372 Southern Atlantic Coast
RICKY DAVIS

374 Florida
RICHARD T. PAUL AND ANN F. PAUL

378 Ontario
THEO HOFMANN

381 Appalachia
ROBERT C. LEBERMAN

385 Western Great Lakes
JIM GRANLUND

387 Middlewestern Prairie
KENNETH J. BROCK

391 Central Southern
ROBERT D. PURRINGTON

394 Prairie Provinces
RUDOLF F. KOES and PETER TAYLOR

339 Assessment of Occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in Northwest Florida: The Influence of Weather and Roosts
DOUGLAS B. MCNAIR

345 The Past, Present, and Future of Field Ornithology
ALAN L. CONTRERAS

348 Changing Seasons: Summer 2000: Random Trends and Random Thoughts
MICHAEL A. PATTEN

428 Market Place

429 Pictorial Highlights

396 Northern Great Plains
RON MARTIN

— Southern Great Plains
The report for the nesting season in this area was not submitted by our copy deadline. It will appear in a future issue.

398 Texas
CHUCK SEXTON, GREG W. LASLEY, CLIFF SHACKELFORD, and RON WEEKS

402 Idaho–Western Montana
DAVID TROCHLELL

403 Mountain West
VAN A. TRUAN and BRANDON K. PERCIVAL

406 Arizona
ROY M. JONES and GARY H. ROSENBERG

408 New Mexico
SARTOR O. WILLIÁMS III

411 Alaska
THEDE TOBISH

— British Columbia-Yukon
The report for the nesting season in this area was not submitted by our copy deadline. It will appear in a future issue.

414 Oregon–Washington
STEVEN MLODINOW, BILL TWEIT, and BILL TICE

419 Middle Pacific Coast
DON ROBERSON, SCOTT B. TERRILL, DANIEL S. SINGER, and STEVEN A. GLOVER

422 Southern Pacific Coast
GUY McCASKIE and KIMBALL L. GARRETT

425 Hawaiian Islands
ROBERT L. PYLE and PETER DONALDSON

426 West Indies
ROBERT L. NORTON

ON THE COVER

The Canvasback has suffered declines across North America. It is, therefore, encouraging that this species is expanding into new areas as a breeder. On the heels of breeding season records in 1999, this female Canvasback incubating nine eggs (see the Ontario report) established the first nesting record for Ontario. The nest was one of three at Triangle Pond in Tommy Thompson Park near downtown Toronto. The photograph was taken 11 June 2000. *Photograph by Mark Peck.*

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Assessment Of Occurrences Of Magnificent Frigatebirds In Northwest Florida:

The Influence of Weather And Roosts

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ABSTRACT

Magnificent Frigatebirds *Fregata magnificens* have been reported along the coast of northwest Florida since 1915. Most of the 150 counts ranged up to 20 birds; eight higher counts ranged from 26–250 birds. All high counts were associated with storms (seven with tropical cyclones, one with a lesser storm). Several high counts associated with tropical cyclones suggested that large roosts of frigatebirds on the Chandeleur Islands of Louisiana influenced their abundance in northwest Florida. Excluding high counts, frigatebirds were more abundant in northwest Florida during tropical cyclones than during more typical weather (mean of 7 versus 1.8 birds). The proximity of northwest Florida to larger populations of frigatebirds on the Gulf Coast rather than the Atlantic Coast influenced counts, especially during tropical cyclones. Most occurrences (64%), however, were associated with more typical weather, which have a different seasonal distribution (primarily April to June) than occurrences associated with tropical cyclones (primarily August to October). Most occurrences during more typical weather were associated with southerly or across windsurface wind flows that were not stronger (mean of 15.6 km/h) than average monthly wind speeds. Disregarding occurrences associated with tropical cyclones because these birds are vagrants, the most probable proximate cause for annual movements of non-breeding Magnificent Frigatebirds during more typical weather to northwest Florida and other regions in southeastern North America is best explained by an increase in sea-surface temperatures coupled with an asymmetric interaction of southerly surface wind flows.

INTRODUCTION

Magnificent Frigatebirds *Fregata magnificens* as non-breeding visitors to coastal and offshore environments of the southeastern United States are much more abundant in the Gulf of Mexico than in the Atlantic Ocean (Eisenmann 1962, Harrington et al. 1972, Clapp et al. 1982, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Robertson and Wilmers 1996). Frigatebirds are most numerous from April through October in Florida, where they form large roosts on the Gulf Coast north to Cedar Key (Seahorse Key in Levy County) (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Stevenson and Anderson (1994), based on West (1991), stated that the Seahorse Key roost routinely held more than 1000 birds, but no data have been published to substantiate this claim. The largest estimate has been 700 birds (Edscorn 1974), although high counts of 300-400 have been the norm. Along the southwest Gulf Coast frigatebirds once formed roosts of 1000 or more (Howell 1932, Harrington et al. 1972, Clapp et al. 1982, Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), although they have become less numerous since the 1980s, at least around Tampa Bay (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992). Birds at roosts increase during April and reach a maximum from June to August (possibly also September) (Eisenmann 1962, Harrington et al. 1972, Clapp et al. 1982, Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

A distributional anomaly, however, occurs in the northern Gulf of Mexico. A large isolated summer roost of Magnificent Frigatebirds forms offshore in southeast Louisiana, where birds are concentrated in the Chandeleur Islands (Oberholser 1938, Lowery 1955, Clapp et al. 1982). The origin of these birds is unknown

(Robertson and Wilmers 1996), although McNair (2000) suggested they fly directly across the Gulf from the Yucatán. Oberholser (1938) stated that frigatebirds in the Chandeleur Islands may gather into a flock of many thousands. Lowery (1955) stated that 5000-10,000 frigatebirds in early June were not unusual. The highest count listed by either source, however, was 1100 birds on 4 June 1933 (Oberholser 1938). Numbers have declined at roosts in the Chandeleurs since the 1980s. The largest count has been 1000 birds at North Island in summer 1994 (J. Harris, pers. comm.) and 700 on 3 October 1984 (Purrington 1985). Frigatebirds do not form roosts in the northeast Gulf of Mexico between southeast Louisiana and Cedar Key, Florida.

Located between these two roost sites lies the Florida Panhandle, where Magnificent Frigatebirds along the immediate coast are rare to uncommon from April to October, decreasing in winter to rare and irregular (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Each end of the Florida Panhandle (Escambia County in the west, Wakulla and Franklin Counties in the east) is approximately 165 km away from the Chandeleur Islands, Louisiana, and Cedar Key, Florida, respectively. This distance is probably outside the normal foraging range from the roost of most frigatebirds (Eisenmann 1962, Harrington et al. 1972, Robertson and Wilmers 1996).

This hiatus (large gap between roosts, birds outside normal foraging range) in northwest Florida presents an unusual opportunity to examine how tropical cyclones, surface wind flows during more typical weather, and roosting populations of frigatebirds in southeast Louisiana and peninsular Florida may contribute to patterns of occurrence (frequency, abundance, seasonality) of Magnificent Frigatebirds. These birds are highly specialized land-based aerial feeders that are responsive to the effects of storms and wind, both on the coast (Harrington et al. 1972) and inland, where most occurrences in Florida followed storms (McNair 2000).

METHODS

I obtained published and unpublished data on coastal occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Florida Panhandle (as defined by Robertson and Woolfenden 1992), from Howell (1932), Weston (1965), Stevenson and Anderson (1994), *Audubon Field Notes* and its successors *American Birds* (cf. Loftin et al. 1991), *Field Notes*, and *North American Birds*, the field observations section of the *Florida Field Naturalist*, archives at Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS), and observers in northwest Florida (see Acknowledgments). I assumed all frigatebirds were correctly identified. I did not assume that reporting rates or observer effort were even over time and space. To facilitate analyses, I categorized each observation into one of three geographic regions in northwest Florida: west (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties), central (Walton, Bay, and Gulf Counties), and east (Franklin and Wakulla Counties [no observations from Jefferson County]). Except for one juvenile that probably lingered for 20 days (3–22 October 1995) at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, following Hurricane *Opal*, frigatebirds apparently remained continuously at the same locality for five days or less. Thus, my operational definition of a single observation is that birds must occur at least 6 days apart at the same locality. When multiple observations occurred at the same locality within five days, I chose the observation with the largest number of frigatebirds. These procedures reduced pseudoreplication of observations. Occurrences at multiple localities during the same weather event were scarce along the coast of northwest Florida and their resolution did not contribute toward the analyses except during Hurricane *George* in 1998, so unlike observations in the interior of Florida (McNair 2000), I made no adjustment for this factor. I classified weather events into two categories, tropical cyclones (including tropical depressions and subtropical cyclones with winds equal to or greater than 63 km/h) and more typical weather.

I examined the tracks of tropical cyclones in the North Atlantic Ocean using several sources (Neumann et al. 1981, annual reports in *Monthly Weather Review* for data from 1981–1995 and in *Weatherwise* from 1996–1998) to determine which occurrences were associated with tropical cyclones (*cf.* McNair 2000). For additional clarifications, I also examined hurricane season summaries of North Atlantic tropical cyclones in *Monthly Weather Review*, weather data in *Storm Data* (since 1959), and *Daily Weather Maps* (since 1969).

Two first-order weather stations that provide data on wind speed and direction are located along the immediate coast of the Florida Panhandle (courtesy of the Southeast Regional Climate Center [SERCC]), in Pensacola (Escambia County) and Panama City (Bay County). For all occurrences of frigatebirds since 1993 that were not associated with tropical cyclones, I chose the weather station closest to each observation in northwest Florida for an approximation of associated information on mean daily wind speed (mph converted to km/h) and prevailing wind direction (to the nearest eighth quadrant, i.e., NE, SW, etc.). For additional clarifications, I examined weather data in northwest Florida on and near each day of observation since 1993 in *Local Climatological Data Florida*, *Storm Data*, and *Daily Weather Maps*. I also obtained mean monthly wind speeds for the Pensacola and Panama City weather stations from SERCC for months represented by observations. I then compared the associated mean daily wind speed for each observation since 1993 to the mean monthly wind speed of the closest weather station. Since more than one observation may occur within a month, I randomly chose one observation per month that was closest to each weather station to avoid repeated comparisons of two or more observations per month with the same mean monthly wind speed value, although inclusion of all observations yielded similar results.

RESULTS

Magnificent Frigatebirds have been documented to occur along the northwest coast of Florida on 150 occasions since 1915. The geographic distribution of observations is non-random: 68 (45.3%) occurrences each are from the west (mainly Escambia County) and east (mainly Franklin County), and 14 (9.3%) are from the central region ($\chi^2 = 37$, $P < 0.01$). The number of frigatebird occurrences (grouped by decade) along the northwest coast has increased significantly over the years (Spearman's $r = 0.83$, $n = 9$, $P = 0.006$), especially since the 1980s (n = 117, 78% of total). Fifty-four (36%) observations were associated with tropical cyclones, 96 (64%) with more typical weather. Earlier decades (before the 1980s) had a higher proportion of observations associated with tropical cyclones compared to more typical weather (19 of 33, 58%) than during recent decades (1980s-1990s; 35 of 117, 30%) ($\chi^2 = 6.60$, $P < 0.01$).

The number of frigatebirds per occurrence along the coast of northwest Florida ranged up to 250 birds; just more than half (52%) of all counts were of one bird. All counts greater than 14 birds only occurred once each. The first gap in flock size occurred after 20 birds; only eight counts were higher (26, 50, 52, 55, 66, 150, 200, 250). Excluding the eight high counts, the mean number of birds that occurred during tropical cyclones was significantly higher than during more typical weather (cyclones: 7 + 5.6 SD, n = 47; typical weather: 1.8 + 1.7, $n = 95$; t-test on log-transformed numbers: $t = 8.23$, df= 140, $P < 0.001$; also see Table 1). Excluding high counts, further analyses (unpubl.) for each weather category showed that the

Table 1. The number and frequency of observations of Magnificent Frigatebirds along the northwest coast of Florida for four count categories that compare observations associated with tropical cyclones to more typical weather[a].

Count Category	Tropical Cyclones	Typical Weather
1	9 (17%)	69 (72%)
2-4	13 (24%)	19 (20%)
5-14	19 (35%)	7 (7%)[b]
≥ 15	13 (24%)	1 (1%)[c]

[a] *G*-test=55.39,df=3, *P*<0.001.
[b] The highest count was 10 in this category.
[c] The only count in this category was questionable; see text.

mean number of birds did not differ among years, regions, or monthly dates of observation.

Six high counts were in the western Panhandle before the 1980s, and all were associated with tropical cyclones. Observations from these storms occurred on 8 July and from 16 September to 4 October. The eyes of two storms (Hurricane 1 in 1916, Hurricane *Ethel* in 1960) passed through the Chandeleur Islands; neither storm moved over land until reaching the Mississippi coast. Hurricane 1 originated from the western Caribbean Sea, Hurricane *Ethel* from the central Gulf of Mexico. The latter storm was associated with the highest count of birds (250) in the Florida Panhandle. The eyes of the other storms passed to the west of the Chandeleur Islands before landing on the central Louisiana coast, except for the storm associated with the count of 26 birds which passed just to the east of the Chandeleurs before landing on the Mississippi–Alabama coast. These storms originated in the western Caribbean Sea or western Atlantic Ocean and passed over land before final landfall. The path of one storm (Hurricane *Hilda* in 1964) was unusual. After landfall on the Louisiana coast, the track of the storm took an abrupt 90° turn to the east and passed along the northern Gulf coast into the Florida Panhandle, where flocks of 50 and 200 birds were observed. The only other tropical cyclone that has taken a similar path along the northern Gulf coast since 1915 was Hurricane *George* in 1998, whose eye passed through the Chandeleur Islands before landfall on the Mississippi coast. Multiple occurrences of frigatebirds in the Florida Panhandle were associated with *George*; at least 88 birds were observed. Both *Hilda* and *George* took a path that "corralled" birds.

One of two high counts (52 birds) in the eastern Panhandle occurred on 3 October 1992 during a tropical depression that was then centered in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Heavy rains (over 10 cm), strong winds (gusts up to 108 km/h), and local tornadoes accompanied this storm that landed on the Gulf/Franklin County border. The other high count (66 birds) on 7 October 1976 was not associated with a tropical cyclone, but its validity is questionable (possible falsified data). This count did occur during a prolonged storm (6–8 October), a large stationary front that on 7 October produced heavy rains (over 5 cm), moderate windspeeds (< 32 km/h), and a wind direction from the southeast.

The mean daily wind speed associated with all occurrences of frigatebirds since 1993 during more typical weather was 15.6 + 4.5 km/h (range: 8-29 km/h, n = 45), which was not different from the mean of the randomly chosen subset which was restricted to one observation per month closest to each weather station (15.8 + 5.6 km/h, n = 20). Both values are highly similar to the mean monthly wind speed (15.4 + 2.4 km/h, n = 20) recorded at the two weather stations in Pensacola and Panama City. The prevailing wind direction on the days of occurrence of frigatebirds was from the south (SW-SE = 23, W = 5, E = 12, NW-NE = 5).

Magnificent Frigatebirds have occurred along the coast of northwest Florida from 26 March to 6 January, with most observations (89%) from April through October (Fig. 1). Their frequency of occurrence early, however, is from a distinctly different cause than their later occurrence. The number and proportion of frigatebirds during more typical weather was highest from April through June, compared to lower numbers later in the year. In contrast, most observations from August through October (peaking in September) have been associated with tropical cyclones.

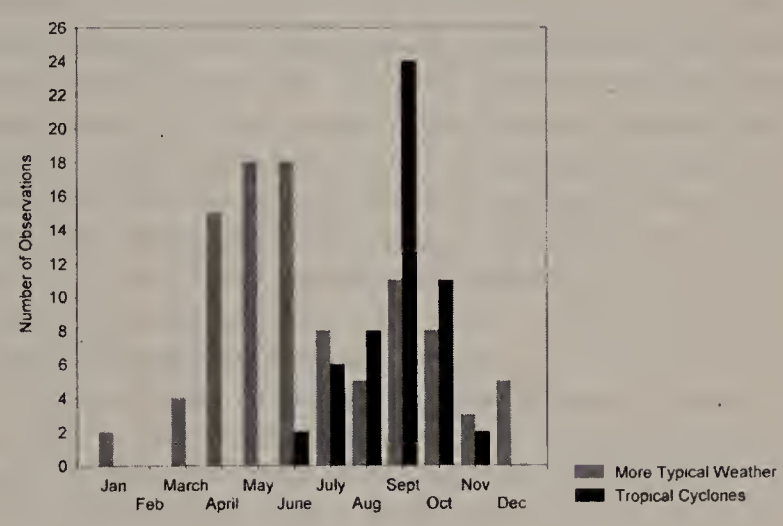

Figure 1. Seasonal distribution by month that compares observations associated with tropical cyclones to more typical weather for Magnificent Frigatebirds that have occurred along the northwest coast of Florida (n=150).

DISCUSSION

An increase in observer effort and reporting rates, not an increase in the number of Magnificent Frigatebirds, is responsible for the increase in the number of observations of frigatebirds in northwest Florida since the 1980s (Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Robertson and Wilmers 1996; cf. McNair 2000). Recent sampling (which include contributions of solicited observations) is probably fairly representative except in the central region where birds are undersampled (i.e., observers occurred more frequently in the eastern and western Panhandle), although the central region is farther away from large sources of frigatebirds in southeast Louisiana and peninsular Florida. Before the 1980s, documented occurrences were biased toward observations associated with tropical cyclones. Weston (1965) stated that single frigatebirds and small groups not associated with tropical cyclones appeared several times every summer in the western Panhandle, but few of these observations were published. Frigatebirds during more typical weather were badly under-reported before the 1980s in northwest Florida, especially from April to June.

Tropical cyclones strongly influence occurrences in northwest Florida, where frigatebirds are usually three–four times more abundant than during more typical weather. Frigatebirds are relatively frequent in the Panhandle from August to October (especially September), which are the peak months for tropical cyclones in Florida (Artusa 1988, Williams and Duedall 1995; see McNair 2000). The difference in abundance between occurrences associated with

tropical cyclones compared to more typical weather is somewhat greater along the northwest coast than in the interior of Florida, even though frigatebirds are regular visitors along the northwest coast during more typical weather. Frigatebirds are reluctant to fly over land, so fewer birds occur in the interior of Florida during tropical cyclones (McNair 2000).

Magnificent Frigatebirds are most frequent in northwest Florida during more typical weather when surface wind flows influence their occurrence. Excluding occurrences associated with tropical cyclones, most frigatebirds occur on days with prevailing southerly winds or crosswinds that are not stronger than average monthly wind speeds. Frigatebirds may occur more frequently on days with higher winds (Harrington et al. 1972), but direction rather than wind speed appears to more strongly influence their occurrence in northwest Florida. This is not surprising since frigatebirds are adapted for gliding in light to moderate winds, especially with tail winds (Schnell 1974, Pennycuick 1983, 1987; cf. large gadfly petrels, Spear and Ainley 1997b), unlike most other seabirds (Spear and Ainley 1997a). Furthermore, this downwind flight is more energy-efficient, per distance flown (Pennycuick 1975, 1989, Spear and Ainley 1997a,b). Gliding or even flapping into head winds would be difficult above moderate wind speeds because frigatebirds have 40% lower wing loadings than any other seabird (Nelson 1975, Pennycuick 1983, Spear and Ainley 1997b). Magnificent Frigatebirds are most numerous in spring (April to June), when northward movement is coupled with favorable southerly winds (Baldwin 1968). Many of these birds have probably overshot their intended destinations. The lower number of frigatebirds in northwest Florida during more typical weather from July into September, when the number of birds along the Gulf Coast farther south is greatest (Harrington et al. 1972, Stevenson and Anderson 1994) and southerly wind flows continue, suggests that wind direction has less of an influence after northward movement diminishes. Beginning in September, the prevailing wind direction shifts to the north, and frigatebirds become increasingly scarce during more typical weather in northwest Florida. Nonetheless, all frigatebird occurrences associated with more typical weather at the tail-end of the season (November to January) were accompanied by southerly surface wind flows on the warmest or one of the warmest days of the month for each observation. These reverse migrants were oriented downwind.

Roosts of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Chandeleur Islands of Louisiana appear to have directly influenced frigatebird occurrences in northwest Florida, but only during a limited number of tropical cyclones. These cyclones passed over the Chandeleur Islands before coming ashore west of Pensacola or "corralled" large numbers of frigatebirds along the northern Gulf coast. The lack of high counts in the western Panhandle since the 1980s, other than large numbers associated with Hurricane *George* in 1998, also coincides with the decline in numbers roosting at the Chandeleur Islands (and farther south along the Gulf Coast of Florida). The lower frequency of occurrences during more typical weather from July to September when southerly winds and crosswinds are favorable and frigatebirds are most numerous, however, strongly suggests that northwest Florida is beyond the daily foraging range from their roosts of most frigatebirds. Magnificent Frigatebirds in Franklin and Escambia Counties in northwest Florida would require approximately 6.2–7.2 hours to fly from and return to roosts at Cedar Key and the Chandeleur Islands, based on mean ground speeds with tailwinds (53 km/h) or crosswinds (46 km/h) under the condition of a 16.1 km/h mean wind speed on a typical day (Schnell 1974).

Most reports of Magnificent Frigatebirds in northwest Florida do not include the age or sex of the birds (Lee 1995, this study) as is the case for the rest of the Gulf of Mexico and southeast Atlantic Coasts, except at roosts along the southwest and central Gulf Coast of Florida and in southeast Louisiana. However, most birds in Franklin County since 1995 have been adult males (pers. obs.). Counts at roosts in Tampa Bay are predominantly of adults, usually males (about 83%; Harrington et al. 1972, Robertson and Wilmers 1996), although relatively large roosts at Dry Tortugas were mostly females (Harrington et al. 1972). Oberholser (1938) and Lowery (1955) suggested that immatures were the predominant age class at roosts in southeast Louisiana. Age- and sex-ratio data for most observations could have illuminated the basis for the pattern of occurrences of Magnificent Frigatebirds in northwest Florida (and other regions in southeastern North America), including implications of wind speed on sex-biased dispersal (Harrington et al. 1972) and revealed information about the possible origins of these birds.

Other than tropical cyclones, surface wind flows, and large roosts, the proximity of northwest Florida to larger populations on the Gulf Coast rather than the Atlantic Coast of Florida also influences counts of Magnificent Frigatebirds during tropical cyclones and more typical weather (cf. McNair 2000). Disregarding an unlikely count of 210 at Vero Beach on 2 January 1967 (Clapp et al. 1982), the largest and most northern roost on the Atlantic Coast is in Brevard County (Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon area), where as many as 86 birds have been reported from July to September (Cruickshank 1980, Clapp et al. 1982). Large flocks of frigatebirds have rarely been reported farther north along the northeast coast of Florida, even during tropical cyclones, and never from Georgia to North Carolina (Clapp et al. 1982, Lee 1995, Tove et al. 1998), where the maximum count of 5 was associated with a hurricane (pers. exam. of Clapp et al. 1982). The most frequent number reported from Georgia to North Carolina is one (e.g., 60 of 72 observations [83%], Clapp et al. 1982), where frigatebirds are less numerous than along the coast of northwest Florida during more typical weather (almost 2 birds per occurrence), despite similarly favorable southerly winds and similar sea surface temperatures (data from SERCC) during spring and summer. Unlike northwest Florida, few occurrences from Georgia to North Carolina are clearly associated with tropical cyclones (pers. exam. of Clapp et al. 1982; E. S. Brinkley, in litt.). Nonetheless, many observations also have occurred later (June to September), compared to most occurrences in northwest Florida during more typical weather.

Frigatebirds have a somewhat anomalous distribution along the coast of northwest Florida during more typical weather, when they are most frequent in spring, not summer in contrast to the rest of southeastern North America (e.g., peninsular Florida, Harrington et al. 1972, Stevenson and Anderson 1994; Georgia to North Carolina, Clapp et al. 1982) where the highest sea surface temperatures (data from SERCC) coincide with the largest number of occurrences of frigatebirds (*cf.* Patten and Minnich 1997). The larger number of occurrences during spring in northwest Florida probably can be ascribed to its unusual position as a hiatus between, yet proximity to, source populations moving north to roosts in the Chandeleur Islands and Cedar Key. These roosts are relatively close and at similar latitudes to northwest Florida, yet northwest Florida is outside the normal foraging range of these individuals, unlike birds in coastal Mississippi (Toups and Jackson 1987). In contrast, frigatebirds must fly much greater distances from source populations located farther south to reach Georgia to North Carolina. The somewhat anomalous distributional pattern of frigatebirds in northwest Florida during more typical weather with favorable surface wind flows would have gone undetected if separate analyses of the influence of tropical

cyclones had not been conducted. Nonetheless, most frigatebirds begin moving north to the Florida Panhandle and the rest of southeastern North America with the sharp increase of sea surface temperatures in spring (data from SERCC), after prevailing southerly surface wind flows begin in February. Most birds cease moving north when sea-surface temperatures sharply decrease in October (when temperatures are nonetheless warmer than in April), one month after the prevailing surface wind direction shifts to the north (Baldwin 1968). The increase in sea-surface temperatures is controlled by global climate and movements of this warm-water pantropical species into southeastern North America are presumably associated with increases in suitable food that allow it to survive.

Several other hypotheses have been invoked to account for the occurrence of non-breeding Magnificent Frigatebirds in southeastern North America. Eisenmann (1962), Harrington et al. (1972), Clapp et al. (1982), and Robertson and Wilmers (1996) stated the annual occurrence of frigatebirds is associated with the timing of breeding at large seabird colonies, implying that frigatebirds feed on eggs and young of other seabirds (Nelson 1975). Although kleptoparasitism may be a fairly frequent foraging strategy under certain conditions (Gochfeld and Burger 1981) and has differing age and sexual patterns in frigatebirds (cf. Gilardi 1994), most frigatebirds subsist on food they catch for themselves (Eisenmann 1962, Harrington et al. 1972, Nelson 1975). The occurrence of most frigatebirds in northwest Florida during more typical weather does coincide with the timing of breeding of other seabirds in this region (primarily April to July; Robertson and Woolfenden 1992, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Frigatebirds also are concentrated at isolated roosts in the Chandeleur Islands that contain huge colonies of other seabirds (Clapp and Buckley 1984). The large isolated roost at Cedar Key, however, is not near large seabird colonies, which are generally scarce between Tampa Bay and Mobile Bay, Alabama (Clapp and Buckley 1984, Cooley 1987, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). Nor do frigatebirds roost in coastal Alabama (Imhof 1976), which contains a very large seabird colony (Cooley 1987; R. Clay, pers. comm.). Furthermore, frigatebirds remain numerous in southeastern North America through September, after other seabirds have ceased breeding.

Another hypothesis states the annual occurrence of frigatebirds is related to the timing of their breeding in the Bahamas and the Caribbean (Eisenmann 1962). This hypothesis requires that frigatebirds are more numerous in southeastern North America during their non-breeding season. However, Magnificent Frigatebirds have an unusual reproductive cycle (Diamond 1972, 1973). Females are biennial breeders and the breeding season is prolonged (about 9 months), primarily because nestlings have slow growth rates (Nelson 1975). Alternate-year breeding would not coincide with annual movements of females to southeastern North America. Males do not provision young, depart long before females, and may be annual breeders (Diamond 1973, Nelson 1975), so males may possibly make annual movements. The expected adult male-biased dispersal is in general agreement with data from Florida (except Dry Tortugas), but not from Louisiana. Furthermore, the breeding season of Magnificent Frigatebirds is highly variable between sites (Eisenmann 1962, Nelson 1975) and breeding in colonies closest to the mainland of southeastern North America, at Key West, the Bahamas, and the Yucatán (Eisenmann 1962, Boswall 1978, Gochfeld and Burger 1981, Clapp et al. 1982, Howell 1989, Robertson and Wilmers 1996) frequently occurs from April to October, when numbers of non-breeding frigatebirds along the coast of southeastern North America should be reduced, not increased. Reconciling this hypothesis with the timing of movements of the different age and sex classes of frigatebirds in southeastern North America is difficult.

This study has examined two main proximate causes of dispersal (tropical cyclones, surface wind flows) of Magnificent Frigatebirds to a hiatus zone in the northeast Gulf of Mexico (northwest Florida), located about 165 km at each end from two traditional large isolated roosts. Investigation at this local scale also has illuminated processes of dispersal of Magnificent Frigatebirds at a regional scale, in southeastern North America. Two hypotheses previously invoked to account for patterns of dispersal of Magnificent Frigatebirds to southeastern North America probably are inadequate. The timing of the breeding season of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Bahamas and the Caribbean only addresses the timing of the availability of birds to disperse to southeastern North America, not any underlying process of dispersal. The timing of the breeding season of other large seabird colonies also does not address any underlying process of dispersal, but does focus on the availability of food, which would ultimately ensure the survival of non-breeding Magnificent Frigatebirds in southeastern North America. Excluding birds associated with tropical cyclones because they are vagrants, an increase in sea-surface temperatures coupled with an asymmetric interaction with southerly surface wind flows probably is the best hypothesis for the proximate cause most responsible for the annual movements of frigatebirds during more typical weather to southeastern North America.

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The Past, Present, And Future Of Field Ornithology

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Ornithology is an extremely broad idea, less a profession than a certain recognition of fascination with birds. Is it "mere" natural history or a real science? Lynn Merrill (1989) points out, in her fascinating book on natural history in the Victorian age, that "in fact, historians of science often take pains to dissociate the 'important', 'real' Victorian sciences from natural history."

That separation is less manifest in ornithology than in some fields, but it continues today. It is important that field ornithology reassert its importance and maintain momentum as attention is once again focused on what's happening in the lab.

THE BIRTH OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGY

Field ornithology was the first ornithology, since the collectors working in the 1500s were of necessity field workers traveling to some of the most unknown and distant parts of the world. Erwin Stresemann calls this period the beginning of "exotic ornithology," and notes that for symbolic purposes we can date this period to the day Columbus carried a live parrot into Barcelona in 1493. For many years the exotica were simply that—crowd-pleasers, with no coherent science built around them or, for that matter, around more well-known European species. Large collections of European birds were not available at this time; there was no taxonomy as we know it, and various vaguely Aristotelian views of avian classification prevailed.

Field ornithology and laboratory ornithology began to form their distinctive conga line after Linnaeus's work in the early 1700s, although there were many different views as to what species were and how to classify them. Museums, mostly private, arose in Europe and collectors wandered the globe in increasing numbers, sending back specimens and, in some cases, useful information. North America began in this period to make the transition from a mere collecting ground for Europeans to a place where independent ornithological thought could occur.

Collecting and taxonomy became the only "true" ornithology, but this could not last when bird protection, early banding programs, and life-history studies began to emerge. By 1900, American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) member Frank Daggett helped focus attention on a key issue. He objected to the tendency of AOU leadership to accept as active members (a category then limited to 50 decision-makers) only those who did taxonomic work, not recognizing equally important life-history work then being done as "real ornithology" (Barrow, 1998). A similar problem faces us today, although due more to the norms of academe than to any formal wall-building at the AOU.

Many of us can conjure up vague images of a transition period from the Baird-Coues-Ridgway museum and collection days of the 19th century to the Frank Chapman-Ralph Hoffmann-Florence Merriam Bailey transition years, in which field guides appeared and bird protection became a serious activity. Roger Tory Peterson helped to popularize bird study starting in the 1930s. In a nutshell, we then saw the period (in the United States) of wildlife refuges being established and ornithology becoming a more varied science. Ranks of field workers focusing on wildlife in natural settings burgeoned—many of them worked for the new refuges—and a relative stasis occurred in the number of people involved in lab-related ornithology.

By the 1950s it was clear that a remarkably diverse collection of human activities could with some justification be labeled ornithology. This diversity meant that people at one end of the field had less and less in common with those at the other end and, as is natural in such a situation, assumed that their own way of approaching ornithology was the proper way, the scientific way, the way of the future, the most important way. The difficulty of syncretizing this wide array of people and approaches was not yet obvious because the number of "amateur" ornithologists was relatively small in the first half of the century.

In the 1950s and 1960s the increasing public interest in birdwatching that had built slowly but steadily since the 1930s suddenly increased significantly. It is not clear why this happened, but by the 1970s there was clearly a self-sustaining reaction that was bringing more and more field observers into bird study. Such publications as *Birding*, *Audubon Field Notes* (now *North American Birds*), and *Western Birds* undoubtedly helped fuel this fire.

Many of the people who developed an interest in birds in the 1960s and 1970s were not traditionally trained biologists and never entered ornithology as a paid profession. Nonetheless, many became self-taught experts within fields of their own interest. Ask Jon Dunn what his college degree is in sometime. As more professional ornithologists in the 1950s–1970s period went into wildlife

management (where the jobs were) and focused their efforts on game species (where the money and political interest were and are), non-game ornithology developed a peculiar vacuum between the traditional museum ornithologists and the feeder-watchers.

Into this vacant non-game zone where less was being done by "professional" ornithologists in such fields as distribution, seasonality, ecology, and even migration, the birders came. The establishment of many local and regional publications dedicated to field observations, the advent of rare-bird records committees, and the sheer volume of people at least nominally collecting data on birds created a parallel universe of people and information that is still growing today through such activities as breeding bird surveys, atlases, Christmas counts, migration counts, hawkwatches, and the like.

BACK TO THE LAB

As science itself changed, so did professional ornithology. Today's biochemical ornithology with its emphasis on DNA, the effect of pesticides, and other lab studies is part of this change. In a sense, it represents a symbolic return to the days of Coues, when the work perceived as most interesting and important occurred with dead birds indoors. However, in the 1800s there was a powerful linkage between the major museum-based ornithologists (whose degrees, if they had any, tended to be in medicine or something not specifically related to birds) and other people in the field, of whom there were relatively few. Today that linkage is quite tenuous and ornithology, taken in its broadest meaning, is following the pattern that Joseph Grinnell described for mammals divided by the Colorado River: it is speciating and there are fewer connections between the parts.

It is not that work being done by the indoor ornithologists is lacking in interest or value. Indeed, fascinating new concepts of species and relationships can't help but expand our appreciation and understanding of birds. I am writing the Fox Sparrow account for a new book on birds of Oregon; try doing that without entering the world of indoor ornithology. Rather, the work of basic field ornithology is now perceived by academe and its journals as of lesser importance, and this is not true.

There is a great deal that is not known about the distribution, habitat, behavior, and life history of birds of North America, and it is wrong to consider work related to this basic ornithology unscientific or of lesser value than what is now supported in zoology departments and published in major journals. I state this as a person interested in birds but also, perhaps more importantly, as a citizen.

Are we really to return to the days when Margaret Morse Nice could say: "I went to the books and read that this species has two notes besides the song, and that incubation lasted ten to fourteen days and was performed by both sexes - meager enough information and all of it wrong. The men at the State Museum ... could not answer my questions; they did not know whether 4M's singing in late February meant that he had taken up his territory, nor could they tell me when the nesting song sparrows arrived" (Nice 1979).

I hope not.

Who, today, is an ornithologist? Are the thousands of people who conduct banding, census shorebirds, record the birds of their local plot, and discover two species of vireo cohabiting in a local nest ornithologists? Absolutely. Are the DNA crunchers? Certainly. Are the people who get their "dead-goose degrees" in wildlife management programs? To be sure. It is the connections that are sclerifying. It is the priorities in universities that are wrong.

ORNITHOLOGY IN ACADEME

As Patten et al. (1995) pointed out, basic distributive bird study is hardly even considered ornithology by college faculty anymore. The major bird journals now publish less about the status, distribution, habitat, and natural history of birds in North America, even though so much remains to be determined. Much of what appears in these journals strikes me as serving little purpose other than to give faculty and their graduate students a place to publish things. It is simply too narrow and lacking in utility.

It is true that usefulness is not an appropriate criterion to apply to basic research, and that basic research is what many large universities are for, in significant part. Perhaps they should not be, but they are. It is also true that popularity or even utility is not an indicator of quality or importance; the opposite is often true. Nonetheless, the growing disinterest in basic field ornithology by so many university-based "ornithologists" argues for a redefinition of terminology.

One example of what happens when linkages fail can be illustrated through a goof by an extremely respectable and well-known academic ornithologist who has done decades of work on the effect of chemicals on birds. One of his recent big journal articles contained a statement that the species he is studying does not occur in a particular region. In fact, it moved into that region over 15 years ago and is now an obvious breeder. He simply had not paid any attention to any literature outside his own sub-field for years, let alone actually visited the area in question, which is in his home state. This is not a felony and such detachment is indeed almost a way of life in academe today, but it is his big journal work that will be relied upon and cited, and it is wrong.

Peer review for such articles is done by other experts in the micro-field, and none of them are likely to catch such a blunder. In this case they obviously did not, though any of a hundred reasonably aware field ornithologists in his home state would have. If he wanted to make a statement about distribution, he needed to have it reviewed by someone who understood the subject, and he did not. More importantly, neither did the journal. Distribution was considered not important enough to be worth checking, which is simply bad science and bad editing.

I evaluate college degree programs for a state government, which combined with my visibility as a birder means that I am often asked where to go to get a degree focusing on ornithology, which are the best programs and how to make a decision among them. That always starts a very long conversation, in part because of the almost universally unasked question: what jobs exist?

Most of the people who ask me such questions are interested in a career studying living birds, what they do, and what they are. Most such jobs are concerned with game birds or teaching within larger fields in universities, though there are some opportunities connected with endangered species. Jobs are generated by money, and most money in ornithology comes from the government or from corporate entities, which can amount to the same thing depending on who is in power at the time. Unless a student is interested in subjects that the government or Exxon wants to study, funding will be minor and intermittent. Indeed, there is political pressure on government agencies not to study non-game wildlife, since more knowledge is viewed as potentially disruptive to economic development. I hope that the "Teaming with Wildlife" concept will infuse some additional dollars into these programs, but even that activity is dependent for funding on offshore oil and gas lease revenue, perhaps a devil's bargain.

This circumstance leads me to encourage potential students to avoid ornithology as a profession unless they realize that they will be

(a) working in an academic reward system that discourages work with practical utility, (b) working on game birds in a system funded largely by hunters or (c) forever outside the mainstream, pecking at the margins of a career.

PROFESSIONALISM AND THE FUTURE OF ORNITHOLOGY

The narrowly-focused work rewarded in academe is of no greater value to science or society, and in many cases is of far less value. The reward structures in universities and within the greater ornithological community need to be changed to reflect this fact. Unless work published in *Western Birds, American Midland Naturalist*, or *The Loon* is considered to have equal weight in the university reward structure as work published in *Wilson Bulletin*, this problem will continue.

We all know that these changes are very unlikely. What will happen instead is that people who study birds will be more and more inclined to ignore each other and publish incorrect statements about birds. Privately funded field work containing the best recent data on many species will remain proprietary, lurking in the mysterious realm of gray literature. The term "ornithology" will continue to have an astonishing variety of meanings as it has for most of a century now. The major journals will continue to primarily serve the faculty feedback loop.

Early this century an Oregon cheesemaker named Alex Walker could have been one of the most important field ornithologists and collectors on the West Coast. Today, a well-qualified field ornithologist and bander living in the same small city cannot teach a lower-division credit class in ornithology at his local community college because his graduate degree is in medicine, not biology. This is absurd, but all too common in academe, where Elliot Coues and Charles Bendire would be rejected on the same grounds. Indeed, in my "day job" I am required by state law to make similar judgments.

What do we, the field observers of North America, do with ourselves while this silliness goes on? We should focus our energies on issues that can be resolved only by field study, and go to it, publishing our results locally or in regional journals. Material of significant geographic scope belongs in *NAB*, where it can inform readers across the continent. What goes on in academe is simply not as important any more at a time when the very survival of so many birds is at stake. Let the academics do what they like, and ignore them unless their work is of genuine value.

In my home state, there have been ten significant works of distributive ornithology (county and regional studies) and one statewide bibliography done in the past ten years. The authors at the time of publication worked as a lobbyist, high-school teacher, handyman, computer programmer, waiter, water-quality evaluator, shipping clerk, and part-time seasonal bird researcher, respectively. One of them produced two of the publications. My state has many "professional" ornithologists in academe and government agencies, but with rare exceptions they simply can't spend time on projects that don't earn rewards within their employment structure.

In fact, many of them don't know much about birds anymore. For example, an author of a species account in our in-progress *Birds of Oregon* did a great job discussing the breeding habitat and ecology of a species that she has studied for several years, then made the breathtakingly preposterous statement that it is sedentary. In fact it is migratory and there are several obvious sources for this information.

The problem? She had worked with the species only in the breeding season because that was the only season for which there was interest and funding (from the timber industry) within her graduate school. It had not occurred to her that the breeding birds actually winter somewhere else and that the winter birds in the same area come from Canada. The notion that there are several subspecies and that they have different movements was foreign to her. Worse, it had not occurred to her to ask. Worst of all, the issue obviously strikes her as unimportant. She is a becoming a leading authority on the species in the region and will no doubt become an "expert" whose work is relied upon. This is what is being taught as ornithology in major university science programs.

THE ROLE OF *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS*

What can *NAB* do to ensure that distributive ornithology has a long and healthy life and gains in respect within academe and government? First, it must remain true to its mission of publishing the best in field ornithology and not be distracted by fads or sudden shifts in the wind. Provide both the facts of distribution and the analysis that is so valuable and so much rarer. Publish identification information that will help the readership in field work. Make quality reprints easily available to authors. Refer readers to the best work on distribution and related fields published in state, regional, and specialized journals from all of North America. Perhaps most important, *NAB* must not not equate success with growth, provided that an adequate baseline of subscribers can be established and maintained.

We who observe birds will study birds where they live. It is essential and far more useful to the birds themselves.

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Changing Seasons, Summer 2000:

Random Trends And Random Thoughts

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The breeding season is time to reflect on that most important of all quests birds undertake, the propagation of their genes into the future. The millennium's first (as many see it) summer brought the usual litany of interesting vagrants and wild records. More interesting, however, are the myriad changing patterns we can detect by pursuing regional reports from across the continent. The breeding season, especially, is a time to discover and wonder about these patterns. After all, our field guides and state and local avifaunas give the sense of being outdated, of being period pieces, more by changes in breeding status than by anything else.

At least six singing Willow Flycatchers in New Brunswick perhaps signify further range expansion by this species. By some accounts (P. Unitt pers. comm.), the Willow Flycatcher was unknown east of the Appalachians until sometime during the twentieth century. Its northward push mirrors that of the Blue-winged Warbler. Consider, for example, that only one Golden-winged Warbler was reported in New England during the entire summer, equaling the number of Lawrence's Warblers reported! Key differences between the flycatchers and warblers, owing largely to identification difficulty of the former, are that we have little idea if Willows are expanding at the expense of Alders, let alone if the species are hybridizing along the expanding front the Willow's range. Their distinct songs may prohibit interbreeding, but are they distinct enough? Even more southerly species are getting into the act. The gaudy Scissor-tailed Flycatcher nested successfully in both Georgia and North Carolina, straining the eastern limits of its breeding range. With all of the talk of global warming, I suppose one expects southerly species to push north, but for nearly every example there is a counter-example. While some species are pushing north and east, others are working their way south and west. Common Ravens are well on their way to becoming a fixture in Connecticut. Moreover, the species appears to be colonizing western Pennsylvania where, as in Connecticut, it is being noted with increasing frequency in low-elevation areas well away from mountains.

Not surprisingly, and adding to the rich tapestry of gauging and interpreting avian status and distribution, patterns can be different in different parts of the continent. The Tree Swallow, for example, has declined precipitously as a breeder in much of California, yet this species is increasing dramatically in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The Bank Swallow might well be enjoying similar increases in the East while suffering similar declines in the West. In cases where subspecies are the same in both regions (e.g., Tree Swallows are monotypic and all North American Bank

Swallows are the nominate subspecies), we might be mystified by differences in range expansion or retraction, or population increase or decrease. That climatic, vegetative, geographic, and anthropogenic factors vary considerably over the continent ought at least to give us solace, though reminding us of the tangled complexity of ecosystem function.

Perhaps more interesting are cases where different subspecies are undergoing the same sort of expansion or increase. Brown Pelicans, for example, whether on the West Coast or East, are pushing northward. In part we have allowed populations to recover from tragedies of our own doing, such as DDT poisoning. But on another level their parallel expansions are bringing the species to new frontiers. In the West, Brown Pelicans began breeding at the Salton Sea in the mid-1990s. At the same time, the Atlantic subspecies pushed into the Chesapeake Bay, where the breeding population has burgeoned to hundreds of pairs. And need I remind anyone of the amazing northward expansion of three different subspecies of the Great-tailed Grackle? *Q. m. prosopodicola* of eastern Mexico has pushed into parts of the Southeast and beyond, *Q. m. monsoni* of central Mexico has pushed into New Mexico, Arizona, and southeastern California, and *Q. m. nelsoni* of western Mexico has pushed into western Arizona, California, and beyond. Apart from its penchant for ranches and suburbia, what factors inherent to the Great-tailed Grackle triggered an essentially simultaneous expansion of three different populations?

This question is of course complicated by the terrific variance in ecosystem structure that I pondered early. Even a single factor can have a heterogenous, complex effect. For example, factors we often associate with enhanced productivity, such as increased rain, do indeed benefit many species. But as usual the broad brush cannot be applied, for increased rain apparently hindered productivity of various raptors in the Hudson-Delaware region and various grebes in the Prairie Provinces. The oft-complex, oft-miraculous interplay of seemingly unrelated species also plays a role. Witness the absence of breeding Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers in a Philadelphia park, largely because White-tailed Deer devoured the understory. Other changes may be more directly related to changes in human land use. Emphasis on waterfowl and their habitat, from Ducks Unlimited and the like, has resulted in greater population sizes of Snow Geese, Canada Geese, Mallards (up a remarkable 55% in Minnesota), and a many other species. Might the Canvasbacks providing the first breeding record for Ontario (see the cover), despite their recent well-documented declines, be reaping the same benefits?

With these various thoughts, I leave to find discover your own changing patterns in breeding bird distribution and status across North America. There are many. I close with two digressions, neither particularly related to the breeding season, but both deeply tied to *North American Birds.*

DIGRESSION I : HYBRIDS

Although not really a topic for the summer season, the topic of gulls has again reared its head. I was fortunate enough to receive a memo from Joe Jehl, along with a reprint (Jehl 1987), discussing a photograph recently published in *North American Birds* (54:227). I had blithely concurred with this first-winter bird's identification as a Nelson's Gull, nearly universally deemed a Glaucous × Herring Gull. As Jehl rightly noted, the name "Nelson's Gull" actually applies to myriad phenotypes, such that there is no good reason to assume that the bird in the photograph is a Glaucous × Herring hybrid. It might just as well have been a Glaucous-winged × Herring hybrid or a Thayer's × Herring hybrid. This problem is not confined to gulls (or to birds). Hybrids always present an identification challenge, and their identification is nearly always tentative. I remain unconvinced, for example, that the hybrid towhee featured in Sibley's marvelous summary paper (1994) is a Spotted × Green-tailed, especially when considering that the bird's phenotype matches some examples of the well-known hybrid combination of Spotted × Collared (*Pipilo ocai*) Towhee (Sibley 1950). The point is that we rarely can be certain of the identity of a hybrid, particularly without a specimen. This situation is probably exacerbated in gulls, a group in which plumage variation is extreme and hybridization (and intergradation) is extensive. We must therefore temper our desire to identify as hybrids many of the unusual gulls we encounter (*cf.* Howell and Corben 2000). And I must go on record as accepting Jehl's challenge that I do not really know the parentage of the gull that I concluded had a Nelson's Gull phenotype.

DIGRESSION II : RECORDS COMMITTEES

North American Birds is intimately related to the functioning of bird records committees. As an example, some such committees (e.g., California, Texas) make an effort to review all published records of state rarities, many of which appear in print for the first time in these pages. It is thus incumbent upon all Regional Editors to work closely with the chairperson/secretary of records committees in the states they cover. After all, the real issue—the reason this journal exists—is for the greater good of field ornithology. By publishing carefully vetted records, we can later build accounts of status and distribution, of range surges and retreats, of population peaks and valleys, for myriad species across this vast continent. Yet three potential problems arise with this erstwhile symbiotic relationship. Contributors to *North American Birds* can play a crucial role in avoiding or resolving these problems.

On the one hand, Regional Editors operate under a strict timetable. They are therefore faced with the daunting task of vetting a host of records in short order, often with only the vaguest sense of how a particular record of a state rarity might eventually fare once reviewed by the state committee. Editors, then, often publish records that are ultimately rejected by a committee. For example, recent reports of a California Gull at Charlevoix in fall 1998 and a King Eider at Rogers City in fall 1999 were not accepted by the Michigan Bird Records Committee (A. Chartier *in litt.*). What then? The best recourse, in my view, is for the committee to communicate these results to the editor, and for the editor to add a short corrigendum/addendum to next regional report.

More vexing are situations where an observer reports a particular bird to a Regional Editor, but provides details only to the state committee. Closely related scenarios are when the observer reports only to the committee, completely bypassing the editor. The greater good is clearly served best by the observer providing his/her data to both the editor and committee, but if that does not happen it is incumbent upon the committee chair to communicate with the editor each season to ensure that various records will be included in the report. Still, some records are likely to be received solely by a committee. Provided a particular committee regularly publishes reports, in cases where a record is left out of a regional report but is subsequently accepted by a committee, there may be no need to update *North American Birds.* I should mention that another option exists: that the observer trumpets the validity of his/her record, but provided nary a scrap of documentation to anyone. In these cases, the greater good may be best served by including the record in regional report, placing it at the end under a heading of

"Undocumented rarities" or something similar (see many a Texas report over the years).

Of course this last general problem requires that the committee be in contact with the Regional Editor. A more insidious problem involves the converse. I sincerely hope that no Regional Editor for *North American Birds* deliberately withholds data from a records committee. No one benefits from such behavior. Instead, at the end of each season the editor should forward all documentation for review-list rarities to the appropriate state committee. Failing to do so is certainly an egregious error. It further should be implicit that any and all such rarity records submitted to this journal will be forwarded to a committee. I am again thinking of the greater good, wherein each of us who contributes to *North American Birds* does his or her best to uphold the integrity of the data. Whether our records get accepted or not, we should always strive to do better next time, to ensure that researchers using our data can be certain of drawing accurate conclusions from them. To this end, Regional Editors, committees, and the army of contributors work together toward continuing the most thorough data set in the world on avian natural history.

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TAKING PART IN THE *NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS* REPORTING NETWORK

Every issue of *North American Birds* presents an overview of what the birds were doing all over North America for an entire season. These summaries are based on observations by thousands of birders. If you enjoy *North American Birds*, we urge you to consider becoming a contributor of information as well as a reader.

The columns are written by *North American Birds*' Regional Editors, all of whom are extremely knowledgeable about the birdlife in their respective regions. These hard-working individuals are all volunteers. While they are generally glad to receive more reports (to make their accounts more thorough), we need to practice some courtesies to avoid overwhelming them.

As a first step, you should know the significance of the information that you are reporting. Never just send in a list of the birds you saw, expecting the Regional Editors to sift through it. If you are new to this publication, it would be a good idea to read a few issues' worth of reports from your region to get a better idea of the kinds of bird records that are included.

If you see the expected species in normal numbers and at normal places and dates, this is reassuring and important, and well worth recording in your own field notes. But we can't publish all of that in *North American Birds*. We report the unusual. However, this doesn't mean you should ignore the "common" birds. The Regional Reports are far more than summaries of rarities. If there is a major invasion of American Robins, for example, or if Barn Swallows come back exceptionally early, such things are an important part of the story of what happened during a season.

To find out the "normal" bird situation in your locale, you need to consult other types of publications. Most states and provinces, and many smaller areas, have books or annotated checklists on bird status and distribution. Such references are essential to help you understand the significance of your own observations. Checking such sources can make your birding not only more educational, but more enjoyable.

Another good way to learn about local bird distribution is to establish contact with your nearest Audubon chapter or other bird clubs. Perhaps you are reporting to *North American Birds* for the first time because you have found a bird that is definitely unusual where or when you saw it. When reporting rarities, it is always important to include the details of the record. Points to cover include:

- Date, time, and exact location.
- Viewing conditions (lighting, weather, distance to bird).
- A detailed description of the bird: appearance, voice, behavior. Include only those things you actually observed. A description written on the spot, during the observation, is always more useful than one written later.
- Names of other observers who identified the same bird.
- Photographs, even of marginal quality, arc very worthwhile for establishing records. And if video or audio tapes have been made, it's worth mentioning that they exist, although it's not nccessary to send them along in most cases.

In asking for details, Regional Editors are not casting doubt on anyone's abilities. The top bird experts in North America routinely record written details to support their unusual sightings, and all birders would do well to follow their example. Reports of truly rare finds are usually kept on permanent file. Maybe everyone knows today that you're a sharp birder, but what about people 50 years from now who are researching past records? They probably won't know your reputation, and they'll want to see details.

In some regions, especially large ones with lots of birders, reports are funneled through Sub-Regional Editors, and it is best to send your reports to these individuals. Some regions list the mailing addresses for these sub-regional compilers. Others do not, but you may be able to find their addresses in the ABA Membership Directory. If you are not sure of the address, it's better to send your notes to the main Regional Editor than to not send them anywhere. It is also essential that you report significant records to your state or province records committee.

Don't be discouraged if your sightings are not specifically quoted in a particular report. Even minor observations help the Regional Editors to form a more complete picture of the season. By becoming part of our reporting network, you put your bird observations to good use, and you contribute to the permanent record of North America's birdlife.

For each season, your field reports (along with supporting details and photographs) should reach the Regional Editors as soon as possible after the season ends. The Regional Editors are working on strict deadlines, and it makes their task easier if they have time to consider and analyze your reports before writing their columns. You will find addresses for Regional Editors at the beginning of each regional report.

Winter Season, December through February
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after March 1.

Spring Season, March through May
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after June 1.

Summer Season, June and July
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after August 1.

Autumn Season, August through November
Notes should reach Regional Editors as soon as possible after December 1.

Standard Abbreviations Used In The Regional Reports

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenal or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
vt.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

How to Read the Regional Reports

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included?

Do the Regional Editors just report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by et al. (short for *et alia*, meaning "and others"), or preceded by *fide* (literally, "by the faith of"—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add "v.o." (for "various observers") or "m.ob." (for "many observers") after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier or blacker type?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete rundown of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

Why are some of the place names in italic type?

In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked "SA"?

"SA" stands for "Special Attention" (and, by coincidence, is pronounced "essay"). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends.

Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.

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atlantic provinces

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It was a summer of mediocrity for the breeding birds of the Region. The paucity of comments on the weather and breeding successes or failures of birds probably means the breeding season was average. However, summer rarities were anything but mediocre, with such rare species reported as Little Egret, White Ibis, Garganey, Black-necked Stilt, Black-tailed Godwit, Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, White-winged Dove, Burrowing Owl and Chuck-will's-widow.

Abbreviations: C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, NB).

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

Red-throated Loons bred as usual in St. Pierre et Miquelon, with a nest containing 2 eggs at Langlade 13 Jun (LJ) and an adult with 2 young at Miquelon 4 Jul (*fide* RE). In 17 years of leading whale-watching tours off Brier I., NS, Carl Haycock had not seen a Cory's Shearwater until 18 Jul 2000, an indication of the species' truly rare status in the Bay of Fundy. The annual spectacle of tens of thousands of Greater and Sooty Shearwaters feeding on spawning caplin *Mallotus villosus* along the southern coastline of the Avalon Peninsula, NF, was prevalent through July (PL et al.). The best count of Wilson's Storm-Petrel was 1000 off Brier I., NS, 18 Jul (CH). There were three Least Bitterns calling at Germantown Marsh, NB, through the first half of June (DC). After a record-smashing spring for Great Egrets, only 4 were reported in the Region during summer: 3 in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia. A **Little Egret** observed by many at Trespassy, NF, 31 May–1 Jul was the 4th for the province (m.ob). Southern herons were in low numbers in contrast to the exceptional spring influx. Single Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were all that were reported, in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia respectively. Nova Scotia also had 2 Cattle Egrets and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Newfoundland had two Little Blue Herons, and 2 Tricolored Herons were at Saints Rest Marsh, NB, 2 Jun (JWh). The **White Ibis** discovered at Beach Pt., PEI, 13 May moved to Wood Is. in early June, where it was last reported on 16 Jul (KM).

A male **Garganey**, not quite annual in the Region, was a good find at Covehead, PEI, 7 Jun (EMa). Single male Eurasian Wigeons were at Hillsborough, NB, 6–25 Jun (RW) and at the Cap Brulé, NB, sewage lagoon 7 Jul (FD). Five Redheads for most of June at Calhoun Marsh, Riverside-Albert, NB, were interesting in light of the rarity of this species as a breeder in the Region (*fide* DC). Rare summer Barrow's Goldeneyes were single males at Quispamsis, NB, 9 Jul (PW) and Port Clyde, NS, 11 Jun (SH). A male King Eider was out of season at Mary's Pt., NB, on 9 Jul (DC). Two male and a female Ruddy Duck were at Atholville, NB, on the intriguing date of 20 Jun (MD).

A Gyrfalcon was at Machais Seal I., NB, (perhaps enjoying puffin dinners) on the outlandish dates of 27 May (DG) and 13 Jun (REl). A Red-shouldered Hawk at Maces Bay, NB, 2 Jul was the only report of this rare breeder in the Region (JH). A radical Purple Gallinule survived downtown Halifax, NS, 31 May–21 Jun (m.ob). A few Sandhill Cranes are reported each summer in the Region. A pair was at Salisbury, NB, 3–17 Jun (CC et al.) and another pair at Plaster Rock, NB, 11–25 Jun (RJ et al.); surely breeding is inevitable in the Region.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A pair of Piping Plovers with three flying young at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., on 27 Jul were at the eastern extremity of the breeding range (RE). American Oystercatchers continued to strengthen their toehold in the Region, with 3 pairs and 2 nests that produced 3 young at C.S.I., NS (MN). A **Black-necked Stilt** was enjoyed by New Brunswick birders at Jacquet River 21 May–6 Jun (RF et al.). A Willet was well east of the breeding range at Bellevue Beach, NF, 17 Jun (*fide* TB). An Upland Sandpiper at C.S.I., NS, in mid-Jun was thought to be nesting (JN). A white-rumped Whimbrel, presumably of European origin, was discovered among 74 Whimbrels near Cape Race, NF, 22 July (BMt, PL, JW). A **Black-tailed Godwit** at Glace Bay, NS, 9 Jun (J&GM et al.) and another, or the same, at Inkerman, NB, 23–24 Jul (MD et al.) represented provin-

cial firsts. A rare July Long-billed Dowitcher was at Inkerman, NB, 29–30 Jul (HC, RD). A very early Stilt Sandpiper was at C.S.I., NS, 28 Jun (S&BS). A male Ruff was at W. Lawrencetown, NS, 28 Jun (PM et al.), while a female was at Petit-Rocher, NB, 2 Jul (B&SB). Early concentrations of phalaropes in the Bay of Fundy were 5000 Red-necked and 1000 Red Phalaropes on Brier I.,NS, 9 Jul (CH) and 5000 Red-necked Phalaropes on Old Proprietor Shoals, G.M.I., NB, 26 Jul (LM). Thirteen Red Phalaropes off G.M.I., NB, on 5 Jul were also early (LM).

At least 6 identifiably different South Polar Skuas were present off Brier I., NS, 28 Jun–2 Jul (CH). None of the half-dozen skuas seen off the southern Avalon Peninsula, NF, were identified to species. Sub-adult Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were numerous close to shore on southern Avalon Peninsula, NF, where they harassed Black-legged Kittiwakes feeding on spawning caplin. Day counts in July ranged from 25–100 individuals (m.ob). A couple of sub-adult Long-tailed Jaegers were also present: one 14 Jul at Pt. LaHaye (PL) and one 26 Jul at Portugal Cove South (DB). Twenty-five Pomarine Jaegers were at Cape Norman, NF, 18 Jul (ST). A second-summer Franklin's Gull dodged jaegers while accompanying the kittiwake flock feeding on caplin at Long Beach near Cape Race, NF, 22–23 Jul (JW et al.). Another Franklin's Gull was at Fredericton, NB, 7 Jun (DGi). Laughing Gulls were reported in above-average numbers, with 8 in New Brunswick, 2 in Prince Edward I., 5 in Nova Scotia, and 2 in Newfoundland. Single Little Gulls were at Eel River Bar, NB, 3 Jun (DC); Bathurst, NB, 5 Jun (ST); Miscou I., NB, 2 & 25 Jul (ST); and Sable I., NS, 22 Jun (AH). Three adult Black-headed Gulls at Big I., *Pictou*, NS, 5 Jul were intriguing (KM). Breeding Black-headed Gulls are holding their own in Newfoundland, with a fresh juvenile at Stephenville Crossing 30 Jul (MV), and pairs of adults at known breeding sites at Cape Freels and Gambo (KB). Only three Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: 2 in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia. Adult **Royal Terns** found by visiting birders were one photographed at Bay Bulls, NF, 27 Jun, representing the 4th provincial record (R. Wiltraut), and one at Morien Bar, C.B.I., NS, 7 Jul (Field Guide Tours). New Brunswick's 4th **Sandwich Tern** was an adult at Tabusintac Bay (RCh). Continued protection of the Region's largest Roseate Tern colony on The Brothers I., *Yarmouth*, NS, has resulted in an increase from 20 nests in 1991 to a spectacular 86 nests in 2000 (TD). A New Brunswick tern census yielded a mind-boggling 6800 Common Tern nests in Kouchibouguac N.P. (*fide* BD), and 800 Common and 1863 Arctic Tern nests on Machias Seal I. (RE).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Two **White-winged Doves** at St. Shotts, NF, 26 Jun–11 Jul were a long-overdue first for insular Newfoundland (m.ob.), while one at C.S.I., NS, 16–23 Jul seemed almost routine (JN). Although a relatively common fall vagrant, mid-summer Yellow-billed Cuckoos such as one 28 Jun at The Hawk, C.S.I., NS, are very rare (*fide* (MN). Almost as unusual was a Black-billed Cuckoo 24 Jun near St. Pierre, SPM (PA et al.). A **Burrowing Owl** at Swallowtail Light, G.M.I., NB, 5 Jun was the 2nd for New Brunswick and the Region (R. Rosenburg, M. Saunders, *fide* BD). Also from G.M.I. and a 2nd for the province was a **Chuck-will's-widow** calling at Bancroft Pt. 14 Jun (BD). Six singing Willow Flycatchers were reported from four locations in New Brunswick during June (*fide* BD). Flycatchers singing in central Newfoundland, east of known breeding ranges, were a Least Flycatcher 19 Jun at Terra Nova N.P. (GS) and an Eastern Wood-Pewee 30 Jul at Gander (KB). Two late spring Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in New Brunswick were at Anchorage Park, G.M.I., 30 May (HD) and at Fundy N.P. 31 May–1 Jun (HD, RW). A Purple Martin 1 Jul at Pt. LaHaye, NF, was an unseasonable date for this regular late spring and early fall vagrant in Newfoundland (*fide* TB). The first Carolina Wren for n. New Brunswick and the Region's only summer report was at Point La Nim 22 Jul (JC et al.). A warbler heard but not seen was singing a song intermediate between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers at Advocate, NS, 16 Jun (BMy, EM). In St. Pierre, S.P.M., a female Blackburnian Warbler 5 Jun and a male 6 Jun narrowly missed each other and thus a chance to extend the breeding range eastward from sw. Newfoundland (FA). Very early migrant Prairie Warblers were different birds at Seal I., NS, on 28 and 30 Jul (*fide* KM).

Rare June Summer Tanagers were an imm. male at Cape Spear, NF, 6 Jun, a 2nd provincial sighting (DB), a female at Sable I., NS, in early Jun (ZL), and an exceptionally late imm. male at Sackville, NB, 27 Jun (RM). The species remains unconfirmed as a breeder in the Region. An Eastern Towhee was singing on territory at Oromocto Lake, NB, 3–9 Jul (GG et al.). Also unconfirmed as a Regional breeder, Clay-colored Sparrows were in New Brunswick 5 Jun at St. Andrews (KN), 11–24 Jun at Harvey Bank (DC), and 26 Jun at Pointe-Sapin (JG, MT). A late spring Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Memramcook, NB, 11 Jun (RR). Eastern Meadowlarks away from the local breeding sites in New Brunswick were a pair 27–28 Jun at St. Stephen airport (KM) and one 2–3 Jul at Miscou Centre (HC). Finch numbers were stable across the Region.

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Patricia & Fréderic Allen-Mahé, Bob & Sharon Blake, Todd Boland, Dave Brown, Kevin Butler, Hilaire Chiasson, Raymond Chiasson, Roland Chiasson, **Dave Christie**, Jim Clifford, Connie Colpitts, Ray Cooke, **Brian Dalzell**, Marcel David, Hank Deichmann, Ted d'Eon, Robert Dioron, Margaret Doyle, Fred Dubé, Richard Elliot (REl), **Roger Etcheberry**, Regis Fortin, **Sylvia Fullerton**, Don Gibson, James Goltz, Dedreic Grecian, Gayle Greer, John Hanson, Carl Haycock, Sandy Hiltz, **Andy Horn**, Laurent Jackman, Roger Jenkins, Ken Knowles, Paul Linegar, Zoe Lucas, Kenneth MacIntosh Peter MacLeod, **Bruce Mactavish**, Eric Marcum, **Blake Maybank**, **Ken McKenna**, **Ian McLaren**, Junior & Geraldine Metcalfe, Ruth Miller, **Eric Mills**, Laurie Murison, Kenneth Neilsen, Murray Newall, J. Nickerson, Roland Robichaud, Sidney and Betty Ann Smith, Greg Stroud, Stuart Tingley, Maureen Toner, Monique Vasallo Rob Walker, Janet Whitehead (JWh), Peter Wilshaw.

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With cool and wet conditions prevailing most of the time, summer 2000's weather was quite at a variance with that of 1998 and 1999. While we usually consider migration over by the end of May, there were still migrants moving through the Region well into June, and an astonishing number of vagrants was recorded for the period. Outstanding nesting records included the first Regional nesting record for Willet, six nests of Black-headed Gull in *Iles de la Madeleine*, and Turkey Vulture nesting in the Québec City region.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

The Pacific Loon has now been nesting regularly for the past eight years at Akulivik, *Hudson Bay*, where an incubating bird was observed with its mate 18–23 Jul (Y. Gauthier). Pelagic birding provided excellent results on the *lower North Shore* of the St. Lawrence R. in mid-summer, as shown by counts of 350 Northern Fulmars, 250 Greater Shearwaters, 15 Sooty Shearwaters, and 8 Manx Shearwaters made between Saint-Augustin and Blanc-Sablon 21–22 Jul (J. Larivée, D. Gagné). With close to 40 records in the Region, the sightings of single American White Pelicans near the mouth of Romaine R. 5 Jul (C. Buidin, YR) and at Sept-Iles 14 Jul (I. Normand) were not totally unexpected, but a flock of 14 birds flying in V-formation near the mouth of Duparquet R., *Abitibi*, 17 Jun was one of the most surprising finds of the season (R. Lévesque, *fide* SC).

Numbers of shy and retiring birds such as Least Bittern are frequently underestimated, so only a very diligent search enabled two dedicated observers to discover an amazing total of 11 birds in a small but highly productive marsh at Saint-Timothée in June (A. Hogue, D. Gervais). A record count of 32 Great Egrets, apparently non-breeding birds, was established at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 25 Jun (L&PS), while one in *Iles de la Madeleine* 4–5 Jun was well east and north of its known range (BL, FS, P. Poirier, C. Soumagnas). The Tricolored Heron reported in the Spring report continued at Cacouna until 28 Jun (m.ob.), and for the 2nd consecutive year, LaSalle hosted an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 7 Jun–3 Aug (JC. Sorel, MC. Cardin, m.ob.). An ad. **White Ibis** strayed to Grosse Ile, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 6–12 Jul, establishing a 4th Regional record (M. Bisson, M. Hiller, m.ob.). A nest of Turkey Vultures at Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse 12 Jun was the first for the Québec City region (L-É. Guimond, m.ob.).

A flock of 30 Snow Geese at Étang du Cap, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 30 Jun was not only out-of-range but also out-of-season (DGG, CAG). A Ross's Goose at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jun–1 Jul represented a first Regional summer record (G&HD, PÉ, SR, m.ob.). A pair of Wood Ducks northeast of Sept-Iles, 3 Jun, was out-of-range (C. Marcotte, MR). A male Cinnamon Teal brightened Baie-du-Febvre 7–8 Jun (A. Daigle, m.ob.).

An imm. Golden Eagle at the east end of Montréal 12 Jun (S. Bérubé) and an adult at Mont Saint-Hilaire 29 Jul (ND, SD) were both out-of-season. Four nests of this species located northeast of Kuujjuaq, *Ungava*, 9–10 Jul by two members of a team from the Canadian Wildlife Service were a good find (MR, JFR). According to the same observers, the Peregrine Falcon was almost a pest(!) in this area, where 12 nests were easily found also 9–10 Jul.

The first nest of Sandhill Crane for the *Lac-Saint-Jean* region was discovered at Normandin 13 Jul (D. Bélanger, R. Saint-Gelais), while a chick accompanied by 2 adults at Antoine marsh 19 Jun provided a 5th nesting record for *Abitibi* (R. Deschênes, *fide* SC). In the south, 4 birds spent a few weeks at Saint-Gilles-de-Lotbinière in June (M. Lapointe, AD, LR).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH PIGEONS

American Avocets are becoming a regular feature in summer; this year, one lingered at Baie-du-Febvre 8–28 Jun (JD, m.ob.), while another turned up at Sabrevois 26–27 Jun (M. Couture, R. Chartier, M. Desmarais, L. Gingras, m.ob.) and then subsequently moved to nearby Saint-Paul-de-l'Ile-aux-Noix 30 Jun (PB, R. Yank). The

SA The major avian event of summer 2000 was the discovery of a male **Common Ringed Plover** in breeding plumage at Les Escoumins 7 Jul, representing our first fully documented Regional record (CA, CG). An adult seen and heard at Cacouna 27–28 Jul 1989 was the only previous record. This year's bird was also heard and, fortunately, was captured on film alongside a Semipalmated Plover, providing very conclusive photographs. The 1998 *American Ornithologists' Union Check-list* makes mention of only two substantiated records for continental North America away from Alaska. The first is a specimen collected in Virginia in Sep 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:70). However, the latter was subsequently diagnosed as a first-year Semipalmated Plover by experts at the U.S. National Museum (*Am. Birds* 46:77). Therefore, this record should be omitted from the check-list. The 2nd record refers to a juvenile photographed in Nova Scotia in Oct 1989 (*Am. Birds* 44:47). But one feature about that bird that was not consistent with juv. Common Ringed Plover was the bottom edge of the dark lores not extending below or at the gape line but somewhat above the gape, illustrating the difficulty of identifying an immature from photographs (*fide* B. Mactavish). Otherwise, there have been only a handful of birds seen and heard, but not photographed, including an adult in Newfounland in Aug 1980, and possible immatures in Massachusetts in Sep 1990, Rhode Island in Sep 1991, and California in Sep 1996 (the California Bird Records Committee did not accept this last report).

Willet nested for the first time in the Region; the event took place at Grosse-Ile in *Iles de la Madeleine*, where a pair fledged 3 young 25 Jul (DGG, FS, CAG, BL). This species was also well in evidence in *Gaspésie*, where 9 individuals appeared at Chandler 13 Jun, with a few remaining throughout the month (JR. Lepage); one was spotted at Saint-Omer 11–13 Jun (JD, R. Bisson). Also noteworthy was a Curlew Sandpiper in full breeding plumage at Baie-du-Febvre 30 Jun–3 Jul (D. McCutcheon, E. Arsenault, m.ob., ph. ML). Other interesting shorebirds included a very early Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Res. Taureau 25 Jul (P. Hilton), a female Ruff at Saint-Siméon, *Gaspésie*, 21 Jul (L&PS), and 2 ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at Montmagny 23 Jul (F. & R. Dion).

Black-headed Gulls maintained their presence in *Iles de la Madeleine*, where 12 adults and 6 nests containing eggs and/or young were discovered at Pointe-de-l'Est 26 Jun (FS). An ad. Forster's Tern, unusual in summer, appeared at Isle-Verte 23 Jun (JPO, ML). A Common Murre near Gyrfalcon I. 21 Jun was a good find in this Thick-billed Murre country (JFR). A **Band-tailed Pigeon**, the 2nd ever for the Region, visited Saint-Norbert-de-Montbrun, *Abitibi*, 16–18 Jun (G. Mercier, R. Gilbert, ph. SGa).

SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES

A large, entirely black swift was seen flying over Pointe-de-l'Est, *Iles de la Madeleine*, 2 Jul at a distance that precluded the distinction of reliable field marks (FS). A Red-bellied Woodpecker enlightened Pointe-au-Père 6 Jun (L. Rioux). An **Acadian Flycatcher**, first located by its song at Cap-Tourmente W.R., responded to a playback of its song 2–5 Jun, providing a 3rd Regional record (Y. Hamel, JM. Giroux).

A pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows entering a nesting cavity in an old wharf by the river at Rivière-du-Loup 26 Jun represented an extension to its known breeding distribution (JLM). A colony of Bank Swallows comprising 75 cavities and at least 25 birds flying nearby at Kuujjuaq, *Ungava*, 3–4 Jul represented a noteworthy range extension (MR). A Marsh Wren at Pointe-à-la-Croix 7 Jun provided a first record for *Gaspésie* (JF. Rousseau). At least one Northern Wheatear was repeatedly observed at Kangirsuk, *Ungava*, 24 Jun–4 Jul, furnishing a new locality for this species which is infrequently seen on its seldom-visited breeding grounds (JFR, JPS, GF, SGi). A male Mountain Bluebird was reported at Rimouski 22 Jun (R. Pitre); the lack of reddish tone on the underparts and the long wings and bill as well as its call would eliminate the other species. An American Robin may have bred locally 26 Jun–4 Jul at Kangirsuk, a locality beyond the tree line, since an old nest was found on a tire of an abandoned truck (GF, JFR, SGi).

A well-described male **Hermit Warbler** seen at Sainte-Foy 11 Jun provided only the 2nd report for the Region (JPO, ML). Thus far, there is no photographic documentation available for this species. The Yellow-breasted Chat mentioned at Hull in the Spring report continued until 12 Jun, establishing a noteworthy record for this seldom-seen straggler (F. Bédard, m.ob.). A male Lark Bunting visited a feeder at Destor, *Abitibi*, 5–6 Jun (R. Villeneuve, S. Chartier, ph.). A singing Le Conte's Sparrow at Matane reported through 27 Jul represented the easternmost record in breeding period (J. Durette *fide* D. Desjardins). Surveys made in the *Ungava* Peninsula also yielded a report of a White-throated Sparrow 27 Jun on Payne I., where the tallest vegetation is about 5-cm high (GF, SGi), as well as a Dark-eyed Junco on Gyrfalcon I. 21 Jun (JFR, JPS). White-winged Crossbills were reported in above-average numbers in the *Charlevoix, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, and Gaspésie* regions, where cone crops seemed to be important.

EXOTICS: A pair of Ringed Teal turned up at Baie-du-Febvre 26 Jun, remaining well into July (G&HD, PÉ, SR, m.ob.). A Common Peafowl entertained observers at Hull 24 Jun-5 Aug (F. Fournier). A Gambel's Quail enlivened Lennoxville for most of the summer (G. Gilbert, m.ob.), while a Northern Bobwhite was at Lotbinière 9–11 Jul (LR, AD). A Ringed Turtle-Dove was observed at Québec City 14–15 Jul (MR, C. Simard).

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new england

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In marked contrast to the record-dry June 1999, this June was the 11th wettest in 130 years of record-keeping in the Boston area, even though monthly temperatures were near average. The total precipitation of 6.61 in. (16.8 cm) was nearly 3.52 in. (8.9 cm) higher than normal in Bean Town. The most profound weather event of the month was a storm on 5–6 June that apparently produced negative effects on breeding Ospreys, Piping Plovers, and terns, even though Eastern Bluebirds seemed less impacted than in other years when heavy rain conditions have occurred at the height of their nesting season. July continued the cool, wet pattern set in June; the average July temperatures in Boston of 70° F tied for the 9th coolest July in Boston in 130 years.

Unlike last year's super-successful Piping Plover breeding season, total numbers slipped slightly from the record set in 1999 and productivity was severely reduced as a result of storm interference and heavy mammalian predation. Apparently both foxes and Coyotes are learning to associate food with predator exclosures. Despite the difficulties faced by Piping Plovers, terns did not fare too badly, especially the endangered Roseate Tern, whose numbers in Massachusetts took a substantial jump over last year's figures. Also on the positive side of the ledger were observations of Common Eiders with young at locations where they have yet to be confirmed as nesters; information suggesting that cranberry bogs in se. Massachusetts may offer some of the best breeding habitat in New England for diminishing numbers of breeding American Kestrels; knowledge that Rhode Island witnessed its first breeding Peregrine Falcons in over 50 years; indications that Caspian Terns may be trying to colonize L. Champlain in Vermont; and the discovery of a major Grasshopper Sparrow colony in Connecticut.

Rarities abounded this year, the list including such luminaries as Yellow-nosed Albatrosses and Brown Pelicans in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Willow Ptarmigan and Ivory Gull (!) in Maine, Red-necked Stint in Connecticut and Massachusetts, California Gull and Bridled Tern in Massachusetts, Western Kingbird in New Hampshire, Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Vermont and Connecticut, and Chestnut-collared Longspur in Connecticut. In addition to the truly rare species chronicled above, probably the avian event of the season was an unprecedented influx of Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Cape Cod in late July.

Abbreviations: ARCC (Avian Records Committee of Connecticut), MARC (Massachusetss Avian Records Committee), Muskeget I. (*Nantucket*, MA); N. Monomoy I. (Monomoy N.W.R., Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA); Plum I. (Parker River N.W.R., Newbury/Rowley, *Essex*, MA); South Beach (Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA); Tuckernuck I. (*Nantucket*, MA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

In addition to the usual scattering of summer Red-throated Loon reports, a Pacific Loon in basic plumage observed in flight at Rockport, MA, 6 Jun (RH) was considerably more unusual but was not without seasonal precedent. Nesting Common Loons in Vermont set an all-time record, with 38 pairs raising 45 chicks (EH), while in Massachusetts 7 pairs fledged 9 chicks (BB). Despite satisfactory productivity, concern persists among loon biologists throughout the Region that fishing gear (i.e., lead sinkers and fish line) continues to threaten these regal divers. In southern New England, where Pied-billed Grebes are currently rare breeding birds, the successful nesting of pairs in Massachusetts at Belchertown, *Worcester* (ML) and Southampton, *Hampshire* (CF) was encouraging.

With the remarkable series of **Yellow-nosed Albatross** sightings in the Northeast in May, it hardly seems surprising that this species was recorded over the woods (!) at Trustom N.W.R., *Washington*, RI, 4 Jun (S. Tsagarakis *fide* DE) and at Nantucket I., 5 Jun (D. Sutherland *fide* MR). Both of these reports are pending acceptance by the appropriate state records committees. Precisely how many albatrosses may have been involved in these May and June sightings is a subject seemingly open to question. The numbers of tubenoses reported off Massachusetts this summer were fairly standard; however, an abundance of sand lance (*Ammodytes* sp.) was thought to be at least partially responsible for unusually high inshore counts of shearwaters, storm-petrels, large gulls, and terns off Chatham late in the period. Representative counts were 670 Greater Shearwaters, 22 Manx Shearwaters, and 1700 Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Stellwagen Bank 8 Jul (RH), and 2500 Sooty Shearwaters at the same locality 21 Jun (RH). Notable tallies from shore included 26 Manx Shearwaters, 7 Leach's

Storm-Petrels, and 171 Northern Gannets at Rockport, MA, 6 Jun (RH), as well as 7 Manx Shearwaters at Rye, NH, the same day (A&BD). In the warm water 20–100 miles s. of Martha's Vineyard, a 21 Jun trip recorded 150+ Cory's Shearwaters, 1000 Greater Shearwaters, one Audubon's Shearwater, and 10,000 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (VL). Single **Brown Pelicans,** always rare in New England waters, made cameo appearances at Block I., RI, 24 Jun (CR) and Nantucket I., 23 Jul (HM, ER et al.), and 2–3 were reportedly present at Sakonnet Pt., *Newport*, RI, 25 Jul (*fide* G. Dennis, DE).

Richard Ferren provided Rhode Island heron nesting data for the Sakonnet R./Narragansett Bay area, including pair counts of 216 Great Egrets (increasing), 133 Snowy Egrets (300 in 1980), 6 Little Blue Herons (43 in 1978), one Cattle Egret (43 in 1979), and 277 Glossy Ibises (500+ in 1991). Similar count data obtained by Simon Perkins at Kettle I., Manchester, *Essex*, MA, included 95 Great Egrets, 146 Snowy Egrets, 12–14 Little Blue Herons, a single Tricolored Heron at a nest (no young observed), and 59 Glossy Ibises. The most notable trends among breeding long-legged waders in New England is the increase of Great Egrets and the apparent decline of Cattle Egrets and Glossy Ibises.

Despite the absence of confirmed breeding in the Region this year, the gradual increase of Black Vultures in s. New England was indicated by reports of singles at Kingstown, RI, 8 Jun (*fide* M. Tucker), Rockport, MA, 12 Jul (JN), Haverhill, MA, 28 July (JHo), and 2–6 at Sheffield, *Berkshire*, throughout the summer (v.ob.), where breeding confirmation seems imminent.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A hen Gadwall with two young at Lenox, *Berkshire*, MA, 23 Jun (R. Graefe *fide* MR) is thought to provide a first county breeding record and one of few Regional nesting confirmations away from coastal Massachusetts. A Canvasback at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT, 8 Jun (GH) possibly represented the latest Regional record for this uncommon spring migrant. Less unusual but nonetheless notable was a King Eider at Stratton I., Saco, *York*, ME, 2 Jun (*fide* MAS), a Harlequin Duck at Little Compton, RI, 3 Jun (RE), single Common Goldeneyes at Little Compton, RI, 13 Jul (RB) and Turners Falls, *Franklin*, MA, 26 Jul (RP), and a Ruddy Duck at Melrose, *Middlesex*, MA, 17 Jul (DJ). Common Eiders at the southern terminus of their breeding range were observed with broods of small young at Straitsmouth I., *Essex* (JB) and Muskeget I., MA (RV) and at Sakonnet Pt., *Newport*, RI (F. Norton *fide* DE).

In Vermont, Ospreys fledged 60 young from 33 nests, a success rate of 1.43 young per nest compared to 2.22 in 1999 (LG). Early-summer rainy weather was thought to be the cause of the reduced productivity. The only kite reported during the period was a Swallow-tailed Kite at N. Truro, *Barnstable*, MA, 10 Jun (TC). In Massachusetts, a state record of 12 territorial pairs of Bald Eagles successfully fledged 10 young from 10 active nests (*fide* B.Davis). In a state where breeding is rare, Northern Harriers successfully raised 3 young for the third year in a row at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT, 13 Jul (PC). In a county with ornithological coverage as complete as practically any in the Region, the successful confirmed nesting of Sharp-shinned Hawks at Essex, *Essex*, MA (JB), for the first time in at least half-a-century seemed long overdue. A tally of 13 Broad-winged Hawks at Provincetown, MA, 11 Jun (BN) undoubtedly represented a movement of immature non-breeders. Considering the apparent decline in the number of American Kestrels breeding in the Region, 115 young banded out of 45 occupied nest boxes in s. *Plymouth*, MA (JM, MM) was most encouraging. The majority of these boxes were erected in the vicinity of working cranberry bogs, underscoring the importance of these habitats to kestrels breeding in s. New England. A Merlin carrying food at Jefferson, *Coos*, NH, 8 Jul (SM) was thought to be nesting, but a bird at Block I., RI, 20 Jun (REn) was obviously on its way to somewhere else! Available Peregrine Falcon nesting data indicates that 11 pairs in New Hampshire fledged 26 young, 18 pairs in Vermont fledged 40 young, 4 pairs in Massachusetts fledged 10 young, 3 pairs in Connecticut fledged 2 young, and a pair in Rhode Island fledged an indeterminate number of young for the first successful breeding in the Ocean State since 1950 (*fide* TF).

Providing one of few records for New England, this Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Ferrisburgh, *Addison*, Vermont, was photographed 13 Jun. This cooperative bird stayed 10 Jun—25 Jul 2000. *Photograph by Richard Lavallee.*

PTARMIGAN THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A **Willow Ptarmigan** that first appeared in May (see details in the Spring Migration report) at Great Chebeague I., *Cumberland*, ME, was last recorded 3 Jun (*fide* JD). A hen Wild Turkey with 2 young less than half-a-mile from the ocean at Plum I., MA, 11 Jul (RH) was certainly not a breeder there, but speculating upon its mode of arrival to Plum I. can only bring a smile to one's face!

The appearance of a Clapper Rail at Chappaquiddick I., Martha's Vineyard, 17 Jul (AK) was thought to represent a first summer record for that island. A King Rail with a downy chick observed at Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA, 20 & 23 Jul (RH) was outstandingly unusual on Cape Cod, in addition to representing one of few recent confirmed nesting records in Massachusetts. A pair of King Rails at West Meadows W.M.A., W. Bridgewater, *Plymouth*, MA, 18 Jun (SA) was also apparently nesting at one of the few reliable (?) localities for this species in the Region. Although an errant adult Purple Gallinule at Osbornedale S.P., Derby, *New Haven*, CT, 15–20 Jul (R. Lawson, m.ob) pleased many admirers, Common Moorhens continue their scarcity in s. New England, where not a single breeding locality was identified in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut this year. The Region's only Sandhill Crane report came from Boscawen, *Merrimack*, NH, 22 June-22 July (M.Lahar, m.ob. *fide* RQ).

The Massachusetts total of 505 breeding pairs of Piping Plovers was down slightly from last year's record of 515 pairs; however, the productivity of 0.8 chicks per pair was considerably below the 1.5 chicks per pair in 1999 (*fide* BB). As was the case in Rhode Island, where 12 pairs fledged only 4 young (G. Venator *fide* DE), early June storms and predation, especially by Coyotes, were the primary causes of the reduced productivity. An American Golden-Plover in nearly complete breeding plumage at South Beach, 9 Jul (WP) was possibly a failed breeder making an early southbound migration. Two birds at Plum I, 16 Jul (SL), one of which was in non-breeding plumage, were more likely non-breeding sub-adults. Apparently American Oystercatchers were unsuccessful as nesters in Maine for the second year in a row (*fide* K. Gammons), although a "fly-by" individual at Rye, NH, 9 Jun (A&BD) was deemed noteworthy for the Granite State. The "long-legged fancies" made New England appearances this season when single Black-necked Stilts showed up at Marion, *Plymouth*, MA, 11 Jun (JH) and S. Monomoy I., 1 Jul (PK), and an American Avocet lingered at Wells, *York*, ME, 4–28 Jun (D. Tucker, m.ob.).

Southbound shorebird migration appeared to be generally on schedule, with the following reports being particularly interesting. A count of 170 Willets at S. Beach, 19 Jul (RH) was almost certainly comprised of more than local breeders, and 5 birds of the western *inornatus* race at Newburyport, MA, 5 Jul (RH) were clearly not from New England. A count of 360 Whimbrels entering a traditional evening roost site at N. Monomoy I. 23 Jul (BN) was the highest tally of the season. Hudsonian Godwits reached a peak of 82 birds at S.Beach, 23 Jul (RH), and a Marbled Godwit at N. Monomoy I. 20 Jul (BN) was a trifle early. A tally of 100 Red Knots at S. Beach, 21 Jun (RH) was in the "twilight zone" of travel direction, but 1200 birds at the same location 30 Jul (BN) were clearly southbound migrants. Among the more respectable seasonal calidrid peak counts, all right on schedule, were 3200 Sanderlings at S. Beach 23 Jul (RH), 6300 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Newburyport 30 Jul (RH), and 1500 Least Sandpipers at Newburyport 6 Jul (EN). Two **Red-necked Stints** headed the list of unusual shorebirds, one at N. Monomoy I., 4 Jun (BN) and the other at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 29 Jul+ (FG et al.). If accepted by the ARCC, the Connecticut stint would be a first state record. Less unusual but nonetheless seasonally marginal were a Baird's Sandpiper at North Hampton, NH, 29 Jul (A&BD), a Purple Sandpiper at Newport, RI, 14 Jun (RF), and a Stilt Sandpiper at Muskeget I., MA, 18-19 Jun (RV). A high count of 35 Stilt Sandpipers at Plum I. 31 Jul (GW) probably was more a reflection of appropriate water levels in the impoundments at Parker River N.W.R. than of anything special about the seasonal passage of Stilt Sandpipers. Single Ruffs at Plum I. 27 Jun (JB) and 3 Jul (JH) apparently represented different individuals. Long-billed Dowitchers arrived punctually when two appeared at Plum I. 14 Jul (RH) and one at Charlestown Breechway, *Washington*, RI (PB, SM) the same day. A Wilson's Phalarope at Hammonasset Beach S.P., Madison, *New Haven*, CT, 12 Jun (E. Nye *fide* GH) was unusual for the Nutmeg State.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

A South Polar Skua videotaped and photographed at Stellwagen Bank 17 Jul (PT) was thought to represent the first record for this enigmatic seabird within the boundaries of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. A tally of 13 Parasitic Jaegers at South Beach 19 Jul (RH) was high for mid-Jul, but was only the tip of the iceberg for the month to follow. The ever-rare Long-tailed Jaeger made a most unusual spring appearance in Cape Cod Bay when 7 appeared during a storm at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA, 7 Jun (BN), along with singles at Muskeget I., MA, 17 Jun (RV, MP) and at Cox's Ledge the same day (PB, SM, DF).

The Massachusetts total of 1097 breeding pairs of Laughing Gulls was up 36% from 1999 (*fide* BB), while an ad. Franklin's Gull at Great Bay, Newmarket, NH, 1–2 Jun (vt. SM) was a most unusual record for the Granite State. A total of 5 Little Gull reports in Maine and Massachusetts throughout the period may have represented as few as 3 individuals (v.ob.), and a Black-headed Gull at Portland, *Cumberland*, ME, 7 Jun (RE) and Wells, *York*, ME, 8 Jun (RT) could also have been the same bird. A carefully identified **California Gull** in nearly adult plumage at South Beach 23 Jul (BN, RH, JS), if accepted by the MARC, would represent the 2nd confirmed record for both Massachusetts and New England.

Unseasonal reports of Black-legged Kittiwakes in Bay State waters included 20 at Rockport, MA, 6 Jun (RH) and one at Provincetown, MA, 3–4 Jul (P. Champlin *fide* MR). Possibly the most extraordinary report of the season and utterly without seasonal precedence was an imm. **Ivory Gull** at Penjajawoc Marsh, Bangor Bog area, *Penobscot*, ME, 14 Jun (K. Emerson *fide* JD). The gull was closely scrutinized for over four hours, both in flight and at rest, was compared with 3 nearby Bonaparte's Gulls (themselves not routine in inland Maine in mid-Jun!), and was meticulously described. Despite efforts to have other observers see the bird, it unfortunately departed in a northward direction at dusk, never to be seen again.

Single Gull-billed Terns were reported at Plum I. 18 Jun (PBr) and Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, 8 Jul (GL). Most intriguing was the possible nesting of Caspian Terns at two locations on L. Champlain, VT. Throughout most of Jul, one to two pairs of territorial Caspian Terns, including birds carrying fish, were observed at Young I. (DC, DH). At Popasquash I., a single pair and a nest of uncertain identity were located that was thought to possibly belong to Caspian

SA Beginning in mid-Jul, thousands of large larids were concentrated on the tidal flats off Chatham, MA, primarily at South Beach and N. Monomoy I., where the abundance of sand lance (*Ammodytes* sp.) was thought to have attracted them. Amid this influx of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were unprecedented Regional numbers of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls**. A count of 5 on 9 Jul (WP) rose to 41 on 19 Jul (RH), 55 on 23 Jul (RH), and finally peaked when 60+ Lesser Black-backed Gulls were counted 29 Jul (BN). In all likelihood, hundreds may actually have been present in the Chatham area throughout the month, but logistic difficulties made it impossible to survey the entire area accurately, including inshore waters off the outer beach. The vast majority of individuals were immatures and none was suspected of being anything other than the *graellsii* subspecies. Even though these numbers are unprecedented in New England, counts of this magnitude elsewhere in the Northeast (e.g., Pennsylvania and New Jersey) are becoming increasingly regular and appear to mirror a corresponding increase in the number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls breeding in Iceland, a logical source population for birds reaching the Atlantic Coast of North America.

Terns (M. LaBarr *fide* CRi, JN). If confirmed in the future, L. Champlain would represent a first Regional breeding location for Caspian Terns. In addition to the usual scattering of reports of Royal Terns was a single Sandwich Tern at South Beach 6 Jul (BN). For the 2nd season in a row the large tern colony at Plymouth, MA, was abandoned due to predation pressure and a severe storm early in the period. Nonetheless, Bay State tern numbers overall remained reasonably stable, with the state total of 2124 Roseate Terns actually showing a 17% increase over last season (*fide* BB). A total of 300 pairs of Common Terns at Seavey I., Rye, *Rockingham*, NH, represents another success story at a site that contained only 45 pairs in 1998 (*fide* RQ). An Arctic Tern in first-summer plumage at Charlestown Breechway, *Washington*, RI, 4 Jul (CR) was unusual for the Ocean State, but paled in comparison to a total of 60 similarly aged Arctic Terns at South Beach 30 Jul (BN). Although a Forster's Tern was seasonally unusual at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME, 8 Jun (RT), an ad. **Bridled Tern** at Muskeget I., MA, 17 Jul (RV et al.) was considerably more out of place. Unfortunately, Black Skimmers, though present during the period, failed to nest at Sandy Pt., West Haven, *New Haven*, CT, following their successful breeding during the past two years (*fide* GH). Most notable of the Regional alcid reports were 2 Common Murres at Rockport, MA, 6 Jun (RH), a Razorbill at Nantucket I. 1 Jul (ER), 2 Black Guillemots and an Atlantic Puffin at Rockport, MA, 26 Jul (RH), and another puffin at Seavey I., Rye, *Rockingham*, NH, 13 Jun (M. Charette, D. Hayward *fide* RQ).

OWLS THROUGH WRENS

Two pairs of Short-eared Owls at Tuckernuck I., MA (RV), probably represents a significant percentage of the total New England breeding population of this vanishing coastal heathland nesting specialist. A tally of 67 Whip-poor-wills at Ft. Devens, Lancaster, *Worcester*, 19 Jun (RL) probably represents one of the highest breeding densities in the Region. A Red-headed Woodpecker at Sheffield, *Berkshire*, MA, 17 Jun (TP) was the only reported, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Pelham, *Rockingham* (C. Pinette *fide* RQ), provide one of few confirmed breeding records for the Granite State. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, 15 Jun (GL) was most unusual at that location in early summer. Always rare in the Region, a Three-toed Woodpecker noted at Mt. Jefferson, *Coos*, NH, 14 Jul (R. Frechette *fide* RQ) represented the only Regional report.

An errant or very late migrant Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Manchester, *Essex*, MA, 23–24 Jun (JB), and Acadian Flycatchers again returned to Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH, but unlike the past two years nesting was not confirmed (*fide* RQ). Tyrannids took center stage this season, first with a rare spring occurrence of a **Western Kingbird** at Millsfield, *Coos*, NH, 14 Jun (ph. RQ), followed by a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Fogg I. off Isle au Haut, *Knox*, ME, 19 Jul (ph. M. Davis *fide* JD), and **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** at N. Windham, *Windham*, CT, 3 Jul (ph. J. Seymour *fide* GH), a state first, and at Ferrisburgh, *Addison*, VT, 10 Jun–25 Jul (B. Guyette, m.ob., v.t. R. Lavallee *fide* JN). Five Common Ravens at Hamden, *New Haven*, CT, 23 Jun (A. Brand *fide* GH) reflect the continued southward spread of this species in s. New England. Regionally rare Sedge Wrens were reported at Egremont, *Berkshire*, MA, 4 June (D. St. James) and Bangor, *Penobscot*, ME, 29–30 Jul (T. Hodgman *fide* JD). An Eastern Bluebird study in se. Massachusetts cranberry bogs documented 57 bluebird nesting attempts resulting in 28 pairs successfully fledging 152 young (JM).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Sadly consistent with the trend for the past few seasons, the only Golden-winged Warbler report received was one at Erving, *Franklin*, MA, 23 Jun (HA). In the same vein, a Lawrence's Warbler was the only other "winged warbler" noted among 19 Blue-winged Warblers found during a survey in prime habitat in Groveland, *Essex*, MA, 19 Jun (RH). A Northern Parula at Block I., RI, 20 Jun (REn) was assumed to be a non-breeder, which may also have been the case with a single Cerulean Warbler at Pawtuckaway S.P., Nottingham, NH, 4 Jun (SM).

Summer Tanagers pushed the envelope both seasonally and geographically by appearing at Star I., Isles of Shoals, NH, 2 Jun (RS) and Tuckernuck I., MA, where one was banded 9 Jun (RV). At least 2 Clay-colored Sparrows were present at Grand Isle, VT, throughout the period, however an attempt at nesting proved unsuccessful (DH). Regionally significant was the discovery in Connecticut of 36 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows on abandoned airport property at E. Hartford, *Hartford* (*fide* A. Jones). This locality represents one of the largest Grasshopper Sparrow sites in New England and provides habitat for several other declining grassland bird species. For the second year in a row a sparrow bearing the characteristics of a Grasshopper x Song Sparrow hybrid appeared at Delaney W.M.A., Stow, *Middlesex*, MA, 29 Jul (ML et al.). In the saga to resolve the New England distribution and taxonomic status of sharp-tailed sparrows, at least 2–3 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were singing in salt marshes at Stratham, NH, 18+ Jun (SM), an area considerably south of the traditionally reported range limit of this species at Scarborough, ME. A singing Fox Sparrow at Baxter S.P., Mt. Katahdin Township, *Piscataquis*, ME, 19 Jun (PV) was possibly a nesting bird, however a Lincoln's Sparrow at the Moran W.M.A., Windsor, *Berkshire*, 8 Jul (ML) gave no such indication at this previously occupied Bay State breeding locality. Exceptionally late were migrant White-crowned Sparrows at Star I., Isles of

Shoals, NH, 7 Jun (RS) and Plum I., Jun 7–25 (JH et al.).

One of the outstanding rarities of the season was a male **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in breeding plumage at Haddam, *Middlesex*, CT, 18–19 Jun (D. Gumbart, ph. J. Hough, m.ob. *fide* GH) for a 2nd confirmed state record and one of fewer than 10 for the Region. Almost as seasonably inexplicable was a Snow Bunting at Nantucket I. 14 June (ER). Blue Grosbeaks made unusual early summer appearances at Southwick, *Hampden*, 23 Jun–23 Jul (SK, m.ob) and Williamsburg, *Hampshire*, MA, 27 Jun (GL). At the Region's only known breeding locality, a female Boat-tailed Grackle was observed carrying food at Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT, 8 Jun (C. Barnard *fide* GH). Inexplicable is the only word to describe a Pine Grosbeak at Plum I. 17 Jul (DO). A pair of Red Crossbills that brought a juvenile to a feeder at Wellesley, *Norfolk*, MA, 2 Jun (CM) strongly suggested the possibility of local nesting; however, 10 White-winged Crossbills at Colrain, *Franklin*, MA, 25 Jul+ (RB) gave no such indication.

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Summer 2000 was exceptionally cool and damp in most of this region. New York City had its chilliest July since 1914, and July was the coolest ever at Albany (4°F below normal). New York City never exceeded 90°F all summer, unprecedented since records began in 1875. Rainfall was above average, except in upland western New York. Rainstorms downed early shorebird migrants at inland lakes and flooded fields after mid-July, and the persistent easterlies associated with them pushed numerous pelagic birds onshore. Offshore, abundant tubenoses and jaegers gathered around feeding whales. The precise mix of water conditions, food, and wind that amass these marine concentrations remains unknown.

The wet season, with its abundant insects and lush understory, was often favorable for nesting. "Coming on the heels of two successive summers of drought, this summer's relative plethora of bird song and activity was a very refreshing change" (M. Perry). Delayed mowing because of rain or local practices boosted productivity of Eastern Meadowlarks in *Otsego*, NY (T. Salo) and in *Berks*, PA, along with Bobolinks, (RK) and of Upland Sandpipers at Fort Edward, *Washington*, NY (JG). On the other hand, wet weather may have hindered nesting eagles and peregrines, and something else cut Osprey productivity in coastal s. New Jersey (KC) and New York (BL). Deer overgrazed understory habitat from *Allegany*, NY (VP) to Fort Washington Park, in the Philadelphia suburbs, where Hooded, Worm-eating, and Kentucky Warblers no longer breed (B&NM). Animal predators that thrive on human leavings, such as crows, Raccoons (see Great Blue Heron) and Red Foxes (see herons, Piping Plover) posed problems. The main problem was still the boss predator, whose jet-skis and off-road vehicles overwhelmed beaches, marshes and waterways.

Vivian Pitzrick documented her 10,000th nest for the Cornell Nest Box Network, a House Wren near Scio, *Allegany*, NY, May 17. Work began on an updated New York Breeding Bird Atlas; the current edition was researched in 1980-1985.

Outstanding rarities included Red-necked Stint, Little Stint, a White-tailed Tropicbird report, Franklin's Gull, Bridled Tern, and an out-of-season Atlantic Puffin.

Abbreviations: Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., *Atlantic*, NJ); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, *Lancaster*, PA); Democrat Pt. (western tip of Fire I., *Suffolk*, Long Island, NY); The Four Brothers (islands in L. Champlain, off Willsboro, *Essex*, NY); HMEC (Hackensack Meadows Environmental Center, Rutherford, *Bergen*, NJ); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Refuge, New York City); Lakehurst (Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station, *Ocean*, NJ); NYDEC (New York Department of Environmental Conservation); Port Mahon (marshes and bayshore east of Little Creek, *Kent*, DE); Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

An early Eared Grebe in partial alternate plumage at the Batavia Water Treatment Plant near Buffalo 26 Jul (WW) was one of 3 there so far in 2000; late summer post-breeding wanderers occasionally reach the East Coast.

Shearwaters and storm-petrels were seen abundantly from shore regionwide, beginning with easterly storm winds 15 Jul. The best of several good days on Long Island was 16 Jul, when "amazing totals" of 150 Cory's, 77 Sooty, 38 Manx (a state-record count), and 15 Greater Shearwaters, and 20 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were visible off East Hampton, *Suffolk*, along with another 300 more shearwaters too far out to identify (HMcG, AB). Offshore, "thousands" of shearwaters accompanied tuna schools in mid-July (O. Birhol). On 29 Jul, 15 mi. ESE of Montauk Pt., a company of whales (21+ Fin, 3 Humpback, and 5 Minke) fed among large schools of herring and smaller fish close to the surface. Over them turned masses of seabirds: "The sea was flat calm and absolutely covered in Wilson's Storm-Petrels both feeding and roosting. Our numbers are likely to be a significant underestimate because it was hard to keep track amid the excitement. We encountered several rafts composed of hundreds of roosting storm-petrels, and feeding individuals could be seen scattered over the glassy water all the way to the horizon. The shearwaters were generally more concentrated over the feeding whales..." Tubenoses totaled 90+ Cory's, 150+ Greater, 17+ Sooty, and 12+ Manx Shearwaters, and 2500+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (AG, AW, TWB, G. Benson). Memorable pelagic trips out of Lewes, DE, 4 & 10 Jun produced (among many other birds) a few Cory's, numerous Greater, and a good count of 161 Sooty Shearwaters 4 Jun, typically peaking in early summer. There were also 250 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. The rarest tubenose was a Leach's Storm-Petrel close to the boat about 35 mi. e. of Fenwick I., DE, 4 Jun (APE, FONT), the third recent early June record in Delaware. Amid this plenty, Northern Fulmars were notably absent.

The season's only American White Pelican lingered in the Thousand Acre Marsh along the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, *New Castle*, DE, after 22 Jul. Brown Pelicans, now breeding up the Chesapeake Bay into Maryland, dispersed sparingly northward. Aside from 200 near Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ, 30 Jun (A. Tongas), most observations did not exceed two dozen.

SA In 1999, after fishermen's complaints, the NYDEC began a five-year egg-oiling operation to diminish the Double-crested Cormorant mega-colony on Little Galloo I. in eastern L. Ontario (*N. Am. Birds* 53:367). Only 5119 pairs nested (5681 last summer), and only about 50 chicks hatched, all from untreated tree nests (BL). Elsewhere this species kept multiplying. A new colony of six nests in the St. Lawrence River near Morristown, *St. Lawrence*, NY, was the first on the American side (BL). They expanded to 1312 pairs in NY Harbor (PK), where their feces are killing heronry trees. The Four Brothers colony, against the trend, declined slightly for the second year to 1346 (JMCP).

HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

The NY Audubon Society's Harbor Herons Project, in its 17th year, found 1563 pairs of herons of eight species breeding on 13 islands, an astonishing growth from nothing since the water was cleaned up in the 1970s. Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and Glossy Ibis continued a five-year slide there, for unknown reasons, but Great Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron numbers remained stable. Black-crowned Night-Herons composed 66% of the total (PK). Cattle Egrets were the only one among 10 species in the great Pea Patch Island heronry, *New Castle*, DE, to decline, from 803 pairs in 1998 to 518 (J. Yacabucci, Manomet). On the Four Brothers, Red Foxes on Islands A and B caused the nesting colony to decamp to C and D.

An entire colony of 450 pairs of Great Blue Herons on Ironsides I., in the St. Lawrence R., deserted their eggs, probably due to Raccoons. Some 200 pairs that attempted nesting on nearby Hemlock I. were driven off by the owner, and only about 50 managed to re-nest (BL). Great Egrets still press northward. Four chicks in 2 nests were banded in a new colony on the Four Brothers (JMCP). Breeding continued on Motor I., Buffalo (WW). Additional colonies exist even further north in Québec. A Tricolored Heron, very rare in upstate New York, reached Buffalo in mid-Jun (RA, BK); none nested in NY Harbor (PK). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, notoriously difficult to census, have colonized se. New York only since 1938. This season only 5 nests were found in NY Harbor (PK), and we received no Long Island reports. In New Jersey, 3 nesting sites were unusually far north in *Bergen*; one of these was well inland at Allendale, unknown in the atlas (1993-1997) (S. Thomas, R. Fallon, RR et al.). Pennsylvania breeding is still concentrated along the lower Susquehanna and Conestoga Rivers (DH). Now that White Ibis breed north to Virginia, post-breeding wanderers are expected; this season's only report was of an immature at Bombay Hook 2 Jul (C. Winters, R. Bussian). Glossy Ibis did not return to their northernmost outpost established last summer on the Four Brothers. Single White-faced Ibis, rare but regular, were at Jones Beach S.P., Suffolk Co., LI, 6 Jun (NYRBA), continuing from May, and Bombay Hook 3 Jun (MG).

Redheads nested at Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A., *St. Lawrence*, NY (H. Armisted), for the first time in many years. They no longer breed, however, at some New York atlas sites, such as Jamaica Bay. Ring-necked Duck, an irregular breeder in the Adirondacks since 1946, was confirmed at Tupper L., *Franklin*, NY (CD). Thriving Hooded Mergansers were confirmed for the first time in *Berks*, PA, by a nest in a Wood Duck box near Lenhartsville (J. Schuker) and a brood at Birdsboro Res., Robeson Township (BU). Ruddy Ducks bred again at the H.M.E.C. (R. Kane),

where they first bred in New Jersey in 1958 (although missing in the atlas) and at Glen Morgan Lake, *Berks*, their only known breeding location in Pennsylvania (RK).

RAPTORS

Osprey productivity fell again, as in 1997 and 1998, in *Atlantic* and *Cape May*, NJ, for reasons unknown, though not at inland or north coastal sites (KC). Productivity was also low in coastal New York (BLs). After a busy spring for kites, one or two sub-adult Mississippi Kites hung around Cape May, as they have annually since 1980. Breeding remains unknown north of n. Virginia. Two turned up in Pennsylvania: Leesport, 5 Jul (J. Horn), the fourth *Berks* record, and near Easton, *Northampton*, 9 Jul (AK). One Swallow-tailed Kite appeared 15 Jun over Tuckahoe, *Cape May*, NJ (J. Liguori).

New York's breeding Bald Eagle population continues to grow 10–15% per year. Territorial pairs have grown from 14 in 1990 to 45 last year and 51 this summer, of which 35 pairs successfully fledged 71 young (64 in 1999 and 15 in 1990). A slightly smaller proportion of the nests succeeded this year, perhaps because of wet weather, but food was plentiful and three-chick nests increased to nine (P. Nye, Endangered Species Unit, NYDEC). In New Jersey, 23 active pairs laid eggs and 18 of them fledged 30 young, which included one eaglet fostered into a Maryland nest. State officials recovered 3 dead Bald Eagles, 2 electrocuted and one after collision with a power line. These deaths caused 2 nests to fail, but at a 3rd, the male managed to rear 3 young alone. Delaware had 16 pairs, up from 14 last year (A. Doolittle). Pennsylvania's 18, noted in our spring report, included a new pair in *Pike* and the first successful nest in N. Middle Creek W.M.A., *Lebanon* (DB).

Cooper's Hawks are adapting aggressively to suburbia. This season at least 3 nested in or near Reading, PA. One was in an abandoned Black-crowned Night-Heron nest in the West Lawn colony. The only conflict observed was reciprocal thefts of sticks (J. Brown, BU). A pair of Cooper's Hawks spent the nesting period at White Clay Creek at the edge of Newark, DE, for the second successive summer (C. Hecksher). The *Northampton*, PA, American Kestrel nest-box program, active since 1993, mounted 136 boxes, 83.8% of them occupied (the highest ever, as siting is perfected), and banded 315 young (S. Boyce, R. Wiltraut).

SA The region's growing population of reintroduced Peregrine Falcons occupies natural sites only in New York: 15 pairs in the Adirondacks, a new pair at Niagara Falls, and two in the middle Hudson R. Valley, *Orange* (BLs). Elsewhere they occupy man-made structures, where they are becoming media stars. Kodak has a web page of the eyrie on its tower in Rochester, NY, and the NYDEC website of an Albany pair was very popular. A newly successful Peregrine couple on the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg, PA, and their 4 chicks (only one of which survived) received 34,000,000 hits for both stills and live video on a sophisticated Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection web site (DH, DB).

SHOREBIRDS

Spring shorebird migration extended as usual into June. The final aerial survey 7 Jun of Delaware Bay staging areas found 15,750, 75% of them Semipalmated Sandpipers, plus Red Knots, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings (KC). Some, such as a Red Knot on L. Ontario at the Chazy riverlands, *Clinton*, NY, 20 Jun and a Lesser Yellowlegs there 25 Jun, both in alternate plumage, (W. Krueger, C. Mitchell), could have been coming or going. A Semipalmated Sandpiper in basic plumage (a plumage rarely observed) at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, NJ, 5 Jun, along with a basic-plumaged Western Sandpiper there 5–16 Jun, call attention to the little-studied matter of where non-breeders summer (PL, J. Dowdell). On the return voyage, shorebirds "were literally dropping out of the skies because of bad weather" at Green Pond, between Easton and Bethlehem, *Northampton*, PA, 26 Jul. They included 115 Lesser Yellowlegs and 16 Stilt Sandpipers, sights "unheard of here" (AK). The same day nine species of shorebirds appeared at Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, PA, and 2 Hudsonian Godwits and a Whimbrel visited the Conejohela Flats.

A Black-necked Stilt was far from its Delaware stronghold at Oak Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, 10–18 Jun (AG, AJL). American Avocets, normally abundant post-breeding wanderers from the west to coastal Delaware, remained there all this summer; 100 were counted at Little Creek W.M.A., e. of Dover, DE, 17 Jun (FR). Two, presumably eastbound, stopped in Pennsylvania: Green Lane Res., *Montgomery*, 15 Jul and Green Pond, *Northampton*, 25 Jul, where they are "really unusual" (F. Brock, AK). Those looking for prizes among bright returning male shorebirds in July were richly rewarded on Long Island. A **Red-necked Stint** at Cupsogue County Park and Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, 12–18 Jul (J. Fritz, ph. AW) attracted crowds. A second bird found there 15–16 Jul proved to be a **Little Stint** (†E. Salzman, †C. Neri, D. Klauber, ph. R. Sanford, m.ob.). These constitute the 6th and 3rd confirmed New York records, respectively; neither was known in this region before 1979. Upland Sandpiper information is sketchy, but 10 pairs hung on at Lakehurst (TBo, DSu), their New Jersey strongold and probably their current southern limit. The only Curlew Sandpiper reports were from *Suffolk*, LI: one briefly at Democrat Pt. 18 Jun (A. Ott) and one in basic plumage at Westhampton Dunes 4 Jul (AB). Bombay Hook was again the place for Ruffs, but they were scarce. A splendid chestnut-and-black male was present 8–13 Jul (FR, APE, m.ob.), followed by a Reeve 22–30 Jul (FR, m.ob.). Twelve Red Phalaropes on the aforementioned 29 Jul whaling trip off Montauk were early.

SA Piping Plovers had a second encouraging summer in New Jersey, thanks to nest exclosures against crows, gulls, and foxes, increased cooperation from beach managers, and commercial trappers of Red Foxes. The state's 115 pairs increased from 105 last year, and productivity grew to around 1.4 (DJ). Long Island totals were incomplete at deadline, but productivity was expected to drop below last year's 1.37 (Dan Rosenblatt, NYDEC). The NYDEC proposes to designate 17 miles of e. Lake Ontario shore as critical habitat for Piping Plovers, which would affect the way W.M.A.s operate in this area (B. Miller, NYDEC). Piping Plovers last nested on New York's Great Lakes shores at Sandy Pond, *Oswego*, in 1984. The last 3 pairs in Delaware fledged 5 young at Cape Henlopen S.P. (CB).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Jaegers were present right through the summer. Most unexpected was a South Polar Skua off East Hampton, LI, with the

great pelagic movement of 16 Jul (HMcG, AB), Two Pomarine Jaegers were off Lewes, DE, 4 Jun (APE, FONT), along with amazing numbers in Maryland waters. Onshore observations of Parasitic Jaegers included one on the unexpected date of 15 Jun at Democrat Pt., and 3 each 15–16 Jul with the great pelagic movement off Shinnecock and East Hampton. One Long-tailed Jaeger, by far the rarest here, visited Democrat Pt. on the curious date of 14 Jun (SM). The Laughing Gull colony near J.F.K. Airport is down to 2500 pairs, more from marsh flooding than from the airport's control efforts (DR). The anticipated colony elsewhere in the coastal bays of s. Long Island remains undiscovered. A first-summer **Franklin's Gull** at Port Mahon was very early 23 Jul (MG, B. Peterjohn, FR). An adult Little Gull in alternate plumage at Hamlin Beach S. P., *Monroe*, NY, 19 Jul (WS) was not far from historic breeding sites. A first-summer Black-headed Gull there the same day (WS) was less usual on the Great Lakes.

Gull-billed Terns continued at their n. limit in the Great South Bay of Long Island, where 5–6 pairs frequented Hempstead, *Suffolk* (JZ). Caspian Terns, normally breeding only on L. Ontario, fledged one chick at Tow I., near Tuckerton, *Ocean*, NJ (J. Burger), continuing a trickle of New Jersey nestings since 1984. Three Royal Tern pairs, a species that bred once in New Jersey (1988) and may again, displayed courtship behavior in the skimmer colony in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May* (PL). This region's Roseate Terns are now almost entirely concentrated on Great Gull I., off the e. tip of LI, where an estimated 1952 pairs, the greatest colony outside Asia and Africa, cohabited with 10,000† pairs of Common Terns (H. Hays). Since Red Foxes panicked the important Cedar Beach colony in 1995, it is troubling that only a handful of Roseates nest elsewhere on Long Island. A few were observed at Cape May as usual, but breeding remains unknown in New Jersey. Up to 3 imm. Arctic Terns were at Democrat Pt. 10–14 Jun: one and maybe more first-summer (*portlandica* plumage, see *NAB* 53: 365), and at least 2 second-summer-type (SM, AJL, AG, P. Lindsay). These observations confirm an emerging pattern of non-breeding sub-adult Arctic Terns on e. Long Island in early to middle June, as in coastal New England (Richard R. Veit and Wayne R. Peterson, *Birds of Massachusetts*, 1993, p. 238). The northernmost substantial colony of Forster's Terns (50 pairs) still exists alongside J.F.K. Airport (DR), while about 8 pairs, somewhat above normal, marked the northern limit in Great South Bay, Hempstead, *Suffolk*, LI (JZ). Least Terns struggle to occupy leftover bits of beach, having failed to adapt like the others to salt marsh. Long Island figures were incomplete at press time, but the New Jersey total of 1350–1600 adults (1900 last year) and about 720 nests at 18–20 sites indicated gradual slippage (DJ). Although they attempted to nest at each of Delaware's beach parks, no young seem to have fledged. Four **Bridled Terns** 30 mi. off Delaware 4 Jun, at the 30-fathom line, constituted a second June state record, following the first last year (APE, FONT).

SA A non-breeding Sandwich Tern, now regular in small numbers at Cape May, appeared also at Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, LI, in mid-July (SM et al.). Nearby on 17–18 Jul was a bird identified as the Cayenne race of the Sandwich Tern, *S. s. eurygnatha*, of coastal South America, by several independent observers (J. Fritz, HMcG, †SM). This observation of a form never before recorded in the region has been referred to the New York State Avian Records Committee.

While the total number of Black Skimmers (2000–2300 adults) held nearly steady in New Jersey, the number of breeding areas ominously continued to dwindle. This summer skimmers used only six nesting sites in New Jersey. Over half the birds were in the Strathmere Natural Area, Corson's Inlet, *Cape May*. Productivity seemed poor, due to disturbance and tides (DJ). A remarkable record was a leftover sub-adult Atlantic Puffin at the 30-fathom line off Delaware on 4 Jun, the first state June record, though some May records exist (APE, FONT).

DOVES THROUGH TANAGERS

A White-winged Dove at Durhamville, *Oneida*, 11–15 Jun (B. Best, m.ob.) constituted a first for the Oneida Lake Basin and the most northerly New York State record. A Great Horned Owl nest in Alley Pond Park was a first for Queens, NYC (EM, SW). After nearly total disappearance of Common Nighthawks from the urban rooftops where they flourished a generation ago, rural areas offered encouragement: several in the Adirondacks (CD), 10 pairs at Lakehurst (TBo, DSu), and several at Cape Henlopen, DE (CB). A fledgling Three-toed Woodpecker at Powley Place, *Hamilton*, NY (D. Rohleder), always rare, was slightly south of atlas limits. Red-headed Woodpeckers, common here 60 years ago but today limited to vestigial remnants, looked better. In New York, breeding was confirmed in *Dutchess* for the first time since 1988 (J. Lucas). They were present at Pt. Gratiot, *Chautauqua*, and 13 were in the traditional Nations Road location, *Livingston*. In New Jersey, breeding was confirmed in *Atlantic*, and the established population continued in *Cape May*. In Pennsylvania, nesting was confirmed at two places in *Berks*, and an apparent family group frequented the Gettysburg Military Park in late July (Phila. Birdline).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, threatened in Pennsylvania, still breed in *Sullivan* and *Wyoming* (DG). A Western Kingbird was remarkably early 4 Jul at Cape May (J. Lukens). A pair of Eastern Kingbirds built a nest on a traffic-light stanchion in Springfield Township, *Burlington*, NJ, behavior observed in Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, but exceptional in this species (TBa). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported: Cape Henlopen S.P., DE, 8 Jun (CB) and Oceanside, *Nassau*, LI, 29 Jun (B. Overton), with probably the same bird seen the next day at Jones Beach S. P. Far more unusual was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Little Neck Bay, Douglaston, Queens, NYC, 1 Jun (ph. SW et al.) Philadelphia Vireos were present through June at two sites in *Putnam*, NY, 120 miles south of the nearest atlas site (H. Turner). A Carolina Wren building near Plattsburgh, *Clinton*, NY, 28 Jun (C. Olsen, M. Smith), was far north of atlas limits, as this species rebounds from its 1993-1994 winter kill-off. Elusive and threatened, Sedge Wrens were found singing in four locations in upstate New York: Pomfret Township, *Chautauqua* (T. Mosher, B.Klick); near Tupper L., *Franklin* (CD); Argyle Township, *Washington* (JG); Derby Hill, *Oswego* (WP); as well as in Pennsylvania at Newton Township, *Lackawanna* (R. Koval, J. Hoyson), most not regular sites.

Lawrence's Warblers were good finds at Smithboro, *Tioga*, NY, 3 Jun and 1 Jul (R.&R. Pantle, J. Baldwin) and Bombay, *Franklin*, NY, 7–8 Jul (JMCP). Northern Parulas feeding young in Alley Pond Park in June constituted a first Queens breeding record (EM, SW). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Mongaup, *Sullivan*, NY, 4 Jun,

where previously found in 1997, and another in the Sterling Forest, *Orange*, 25 Jun (M. Victoria) confirm this species' recent advance up the upper Delaware R. drainage into New York. Blackpoll Warbler continues to breed at Coal Bed Swamp, *Wyoming*, PA (DG). A Worm-eating Warbler was carrying food in s. *Albany*, NY, north of atlas limits (B. Budliger). A *Swainson's Warbler* reported singing near Easton, *Northampton*, PA, in mid-Jun was late and distant from both mountain and coastal breeding ranges (AK).

A dead Summer Tanager at Old Chatham, *Columbia*, NY, 9 Jun (K. Dunham, E. Grace) was far north of known breeding areas.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Clay-colored Sparrows continued to consolidate their presence in upstate New York. In addition to a nest in Andover Township, *Allegany*, an annual site since 1997 (EBr), singing males were found at Mendon Ponds, *Monroe* (D. Sherony, C. Cass, R. Mather) and at two locations in *Essex* (S. Barnes, C. Slatkin). More unexpected was a singing male far down the Hudson at Woodbourne, *Sullivan*, NY, where also found a couple of years ago (V. Freer, R. Davis, M. Collier, R. Schursky, K. Conklin). A count of 200 pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows at Lakehurst gives some idea of how this species responds to favorable habitat (TBo, DSu). Henslow's Sparrows were absent from their traditional site at West Nicholson, *Wyoming*, PA, though 2 were found in adjacent *Sullivan* (R. Conant). This retreating species is common only well north, such as the 45 atlas reports in the Perch R. Grasslands, *Jefferson*, NY (*fide* BL) and over a dozen at Lancaster, *Erie*, near Buffalo (MM).

Dickcissels modestly continued their eastward re-colonization. Nesting was confirmed at Pomfret, *Chautauqua*, NY (R. Miga), and w. of Milford, *Kent*, DE (S. Dyke et al.). Bobolinks were not found breeding in Delaware, but southerly breeding pairs included 15 near Chesterfield, *Burlington*, NJ, 18 Jun (TBa) and 25+ in Tinicum Township at the edge of Philadelphia (AM). A tradition of late mowing aids a good population at the base of the Kittatinny Ridge in *Berks*, PA (RK). A White-winged Crossbill irruption may be in the making. Singing males were "all over the place" in the Adirondacks (JMCP), and young were fed at Blue Ridge, *Essex*, NY, in July (D. Fiske).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS: A bird-conscious fishing boat skipper reported a White-tailed Tropicbird about 20 mi s. of Montauk Point 15 Jun (J. Passie *fide* J. Ash).

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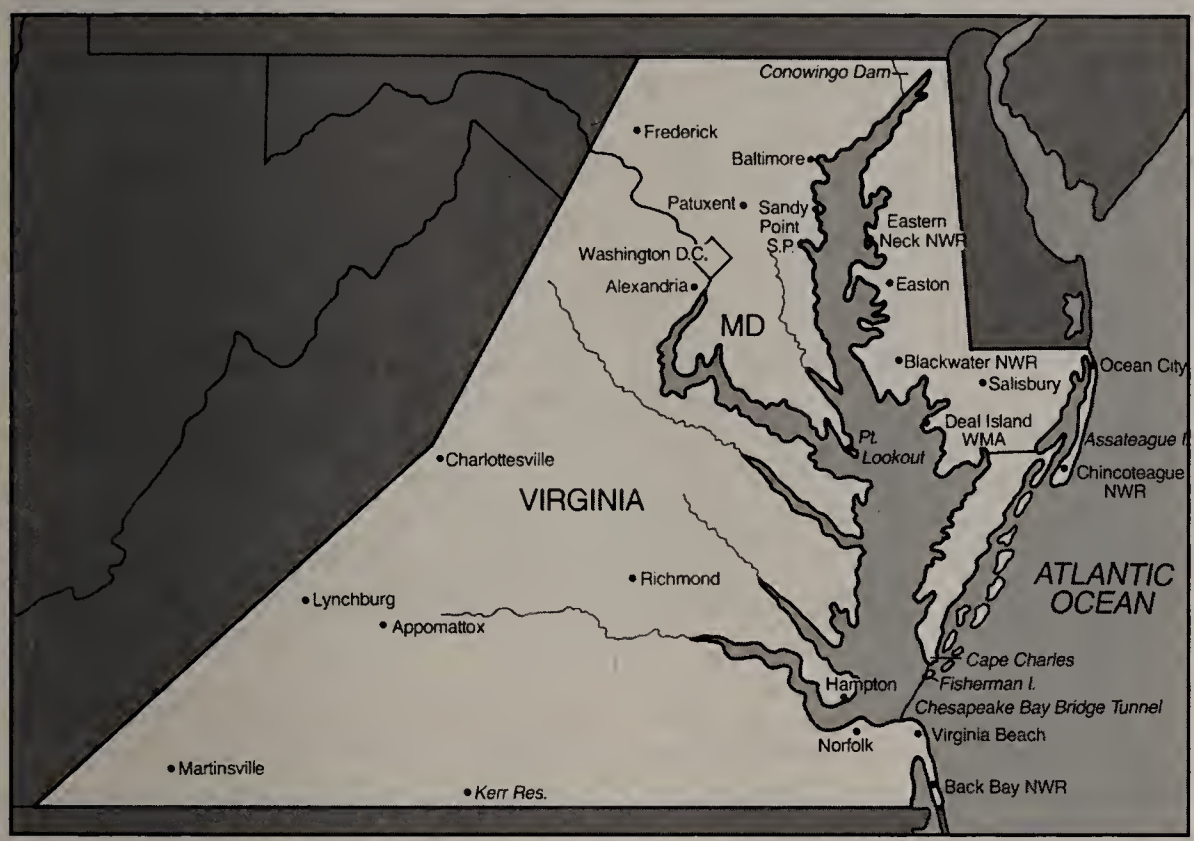

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This summer was extremely wet and cool in the Region, with rainfall well above average and temperatures well below average, a stark contrast to the previous summer, which was hot and extremely dry. The wet conditions often adversely affect breeding success, although few reports specifically mentioning this were received. Coastal nesters are particularly vulnerable, and Williams noted that on the barrier islands in particular, a number of species were re-nesting 18–21 June as a result of Nor'easters earlier in the summer that washed out nests. Most shorebird habitat was generally poor to very poor due to excessively high water.

The more striking weather pattern this season may have been halfway across the continent. Drought conditions in the south-central part of the country may be to blame for a notable Dickcissel incursion, and more surprisingly, a heretofore unprecedented invasion of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, with at least 8 Virginia reports in June and July.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Gail Vaughn, who died of cancer 22 July and who is survived by her husband, Charlie Vaughn of Salisbury. The two have long been one of the few birding voices on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore and very active with the local bird club. The initials "C&GV" have appeared in these pages for years. In an effort to put her illness behind them, she and Charlie were able to take a number of trips over the past couple years. On their last trip to Alaska in July she saw her 703rd ABA-area life bird. We can be glad that birds and birding brought her joy in her final years; she will be much missed.

Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Maryland, except that each Virginia location is noted the *first time* it appears in the text.

Abbreviations: Assateague (Assateague I. National Seashore, *Worcester*, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chincoteague (Chincoteague N.W.R., *Accomack*, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); Deal (Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, MD); Hart (Hart-Miller Dredge Spoil Containment Facility, *Baltimore*, MD); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, *Saint Mary's*, MD); Vaughn (E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester, MD)*.

GREBES THROUGH DUCKS

Summer Horned Grebes are always notable, but one inland at North Fork Wetlands, *Prince William*, VA, 21–24 Jun (TMD, SH, v.ob.) was especially so, and may have been only the 2nd Regional Piedmont summer record. Still notable but somewhat less surprising on the Bay were 2 at Poplar I., *Talbot*, 4 Jun (MJI, JLS), one at Holly Beach Farm, *Anne Arundel*, 5 Jun (D.Weaver), and one at Saint Mary's City, *Saint Mary's*, 12 Jun (PC). All were in alternate plumage. A pair of Focus on Nature Tours (APE et al.) pelagic trips departing Lewes, DE, crossed into Maryland waters and birded successfully along the 30-fathom line where several trawlers were active during both trips; the trips yielded some impressive shearwater concentrations. Maryland totals 4 Jun were 5 Cory's, 74 Greater, and 269 Sooty Shearwaters, as well as 120 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, while the 10 Jun trip produced one Manx, 7 Cory's, 204 Greater, and 168 Sooty Shearwaters, along with 30 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Harry Armistead captained a "poor-man's pelagic" to the Bay waters of *Dorchester* 1 Jun which garnered 2 late first-summer Northern Gannets, a small pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins, and a long-awaited *Dorchester* first, 7 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, which were chummed in with fish oil (HTA, ph. MJI). Other June gannets were one on the 10 Jun pelagic trip (APE et al.), 2 on 13 Jun (JBC) at Assateague, and one at Chincoteague 9 Jul (SH). What was undoubtedly the same American White Pelican (†) reported at Bodkin I. in May was seen by facility personnel at the new Poplar I. Dredge Spoil Containment Facility on several dates from late June to late July (*fide* EJS, MJI). Three searches were invariably two steps behind the pelican (MJI).

Anhingas included one near Little Texas, *Southampton*, VA, 13 Jun (MS) and one at Banister R. W.M.A., *Halifax*, 2 Jul (†JB), a potential 5th for the Virginia Piedmont if accepted. The Bodkin I. Double-crested Cormorant colony has grown rapidly in a year, and hundreds of pairs with young were noted there 22 Jun (JLS, MJI), along with 120 pairs of Snowy Egrets, 30 pairs of Cattle Egrets, 5 pairs of Little Blue Herons, and 5 pairs of Great

SA Brown Pelicans have had the lion's share of attention in this column in recent summers, but they continue to amaze. Recall that their Chesapeake Bay colonization began only in 1990 with a small colony near the state line on Cheeseman I., *Accomack*, VA, which grew rapidly to hundreds of pairs. In 1998 a new colony was established on Spring I., *Dorchester*, for the first Maryland nesting in the Bay. That colony grew in size from 15 pairs to almost 150 by 1999, and this year it must have overflowed. In past years pelicans have stayed in the lower Bay around these two nesting areas, but this year was much different. After one May report in *Anne Arundel*, pelicans took up residence in new areas, sequentially, at Tilghman I. with 50 on 5 Jun (C. Roe *fide* JR) and the North Beach area of *Anne Arundel/Calvert* starting 11 Jun (S.H. Mudd, v.ob.). Two on 11 Jun (R. Wilson) at Eastern Neck N.W.R. had forded the Bay Bridge and become a 2nd record for *Kent*. On 14 Jun (MJI) 32 were counted at Kent Narrows, *Queen Anne's*, where they continued intermittently in smaller numbers, and the next day 8 flying up the Choptank R. at Windy Hill (PRS) were on the *Caroline* side for a 1st county record. More amazing, groups appeared as far north as *Baltimore*, with 50 around North Pt. 22 Jun (*fide* EJS) and 19 there 24 Jun (EJS et al.). Thereafter though, the pelicans appeared to withdraw, becoming irregular in the North Beach area and remaining consistent only around Kent Narrows. The puzzling nature of the mid- to late June invasion became clear 23 Jun when a visit to Bodkin I., *Queen Anne's*, revealed 215 itinerant birds and the beginnings of 2 nests (ph. JLS, MJI), a shocking further breeding-range extension. At the three-year-old Spring I. colony 145 nests 13 Jun (DBr et al.) showed no increase over last year, despite a record count of 1035 birds there 1 Jun (HTA, MJI). It seems apparent that this small island reached its carrying capacity sometime in early June, sending prospectors northward into uncharted upper Bay territory. Other than Bodkin, there may not be any other suitable nesting islands at the moment, although the Poplar I. area hosts one large Double-crested Cormorant colony which may soon be suitable for pelicans (as the vegetation dies off). More provocative is the notion that the *Baltimore* pelicans may have been prospecting Carroll I. at the Patapsco R. mouth; seeing pelicans summer-long from Ft. McHenry or the Inner Harbor might be a bit too strange to handle!

Egrets. American Bitterns in unusual areas were singles at P.R.N.A.S. 29 Jun (KR) and Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax*, 13 Jul (KG). Serving as a *Harford* 3rd, a flyby Tricolored Heron 27 Jul at Havre de Grace was surprising (MH). Some White Ibises moved into inland Virginia, including one immature at Sutherlin Millpond, *Halifax/Sutherlin*, VA, 21–26 Jun (JB), one immature at Pohick Regional Park, *Fairfax*, VA, 17 Jul (J. Cutroff), one at Airlie, *Fauquier*, VA, 23 Jul (*fide* SH), and one at Burke L., *Fairfax*, VA, 24 Jul (*fide* D. Hinkley). Maryland's sole report came from Lilypons, *Frederick*, 1 Jul (*fide* JH). More than 66 pairs (BW et al.) counted at Fisherman I. and another 16 pairs at Cobb I., both *Northampton*, VA, represent the northernmost colonies on the East Coast. The ad. **White-faced Ibis** reported in the spring season was seen again 10 Jun (SHD), this time at Truitt's Landing, *Worcester*. Also on 10 Jun, an imm. **Wood Stork** was noted at Fisherman I. (R. Machover), the season's only report.

Unseasonal ducks included a female Green-winged Teal 13 Jun (JBC) at Vaughn, a female Northern Pintail at West Ocean City Pond, *Worcester*, 4 Jun–1 Jul (JLS, MJI et al.), a female Ring-necked Duck at Berlin, *Worcester*, from the spring through at least 4 Jun (JLS, MJI), and the male Long-tailed Duck at Centennial L. from late May through 14 Jun (JS). Poplar I. typically produces some strange summering ducks, which this year included several Long-tailed Ducks and all 3 species of scoters, including an imm. male White-winged (the rarest summering scoter) 3–23 Jun (MJI, JLS). Bufflehead is one of our rarest ducks in the summer months, so one at Holly Beach Farm 5 Jun (D. Weaver) was notable. Better still, a male Redhead was at Deal 1 Jul (JLS, MH, MJI, G.L. Armistead). Breeding Hooded Mergansers included 2 young seen at Mattawoman W.M.A., *Charles*, 11 Jun (RFR) and a first *Worcester* breeding confirmation, and a female with 7 young Hoodies and 3 young Woodies in tow at central Vaughn 10 Jun (MJI, ph. JLS). Others in *Howard*, *Prince George's*, *Carroll*, and *Fairfax*, VA, were not specifically noted as nesting, but may have done so nearby.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Mississippi Kites were a bit scarcer than in recent years. Ft. Smallwood's last migrant passed by 3 Jun (SRi). A pair was regularly seen around Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax*, VA, during June, but not after 1 Jul (K. Simmons), and a pair returned again to Runt Powell's farm, *Halifax*, VA, seen through 9 Jul (JB). Slightly out-of-place in areas where breeding has been suspected but not confirmed, single Northern Harriers were at Browntown Rd., *Kent*, 14 Jun (MJI) and Bethel W.M.A. 17 Jun (JBC). First reported in this summer column only in 1998, a Merlin again appeared in July, this time at a traditional wintering location: the EPA building in D.C. 31 Jul (CF).

One–two Soras at North Fork Wetlands, 4–10 Jun (SR) were likely attempting to nest, while others at Huntley Meadows 26–29 Jul (EA, JW) and Easton W.T.P., *Talbot*, 28 Jul (MJI) probably nested, but given the date could also have been early dispersers. One at Truitt's Landing Rd. 10 Jun (SHD) provided a 2nd summer record for *Worcester*, and strongly suggests that nesting occurs (perhaps regularly?) at this location and/or nearby Vaughn. The only Common Moorhens at an interesting location were an adult and an immature seen in a small beaver pond swamp near Lanham, *Prince George's*, 28–29 Jul (T. Ray, FS, HAP). American Coots were surprisingly evident, with birds in *Baltimore*, *Montgomery* (two locations), *Fairfax*, VA, *Calvert*, *Dorchester*, *Cecil*, and *Carroll*, where 6 were at Piney Run 16 Jul (RFR). These may have all represented summering non-breeders, but a couple hailed from suitable breeding habitat that would have been worth investigating. There are only a handful of Regional breeding records. Although Sandhill Cranes are clearly expanding in the East, an adult on Middle Hooper's I., *Dorchester*, 22 Jul+ (*fide* L. Roslund, ph. m.ob.) was still difficult to explain. It was *not* wary, often allowing approach to within 10 feet. If of sound natural occurence, this would provide a 2nd county record.

The annual survey of Virginia Barrier Islands 18–21 Jun (BW et al.) turned up 52 pairs of the troubled Wilson's Plover and 116+ pairs of Piping Plover, all on the isolated Assawoman, Metompkin, and Cedar Islands. Two American Oystercatchers at Poplar I. 3 Jun (JLS, MJI) were unusually far up the Bay, while 4 Black-necked Stilts that circled Hurlock W.T.P., *Dorchester*, 28 Jul (MH) were a surprise at that location.

Black-necked Stilts had another good breeding year at Elliott I., *Dorchester*, where 5+ pairs nested and at least a couple pairs were successful, with the first sighting of fledglings 22 Jun (MJI), when one pair had 2 chicks. Five at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester*, 16 Jul (W. Simonson) were notable and may be further indications of an increase in s. *Dorchester*. Counts at Deal were still lower this season, with a high of 5 on 24 Jun (MJI, JLS). Four American Avocets at Hart 8 Jul (EJS) constituted the only report. Both yellowlegs were reported into late June, when they are rare, and a 1 Jul (SR) Solitary Sandpiper at North Fork Wetlands was an early fall arrival. A count of 29 Upland Sandpipers at P.R.N.A.S. 28 Jul (KR) was indicative of the high totals noticed there in recent years. Whimbrels are little known from Maryland in mid- to late Jun, so one at Assateague 13 Jun (JBC) and one at Irish Grove, *Somerset*, 24 Jun (MJI, JLS) filled a gap in their occurrence in the state. The most notable shorebird count at Poplar I. 3 Jun (MJI, JLS) was 23 Red Knots, probably a high for the Maryland portion of the Bay. A fall returnee was one Red Knot at Hart 22 Jul (EJS et al.). The first fall-arrival White-rumped Sandpipers were 27 Jul (KG) at Hunting Cr. and 29 Jul at Hart (EJS et al.). A Willet at Hunting Cr. 30 Jul (KG, S. Suter) was a highlight for that location. One Pectoral Sandpiper at Hart 3 Jun (EJS) was the latest spring departure for the species in the state, which has once anomalously occurred in mid-Jun and has been noted as a fall arrival as early as late Jun. A Stilt Sandpiper there the same day was the 3rd June report in Maryland (EJS et al.) . Dunlins do not regularly summer in the Region, so 3 at Eagle's Nest Campground, *Worcester*, 25 Jun (MJI, JLS) and again 31 Jul (MJI, MH) provided an unusual summering record. A fem. Ruff was noted at Oak Grove Rd., *Caroline*, 23 Jun (G. Lovelace), where one was seen in the spring. Two ad. Long-billed Dowitchers at Elliott I. 30 Jul (JLS) were expected July arrivals.

The 4 Jun pelagic trip to Maryland waters recorded the state's 5th **South Polar Skua**, a dark adult which was well-photographed and observed at close range by all on board (†APE et al.). No jaegers were seen in Maryland waters 4 Jun, but 5 Pomarines and 3 Parasitics (APE et al.) were working the shearwater flocks off Virginia. A Laughing Gull nest on Bodkin I. discovered 31 May (PRS) was apparently still active 22 Jun (MJI, JLS) and furnished a surprising first nesting for *Queen Anne's*. Also on the island were 50+ pairs of Herring Gulls, 7 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls, and 125 pairs of Common Terns. A total of 330 Laughing Gull nests was counted at Spring I. 13 Jun (DBr et al.). An ad. **California Gull** at Hart 29 Jul (†EJS et al.) furnished the now almost-expected summer report there. There were 2 Iceland Gulls 3 Jun, a first-summer and a second-summer, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, present all summer, peaked at 7 on both 3 & 10 Jun (EJS et al.), although at least 9 were involved based on the age ratios of those immature birds. Elsewhere in the Region Lesser Black-backed Gull is less commonplace in summer, but one at Poplar I. 3 Jun (MJI, JLS), 2 at Skimmer I. 25 Jun (MJI, JLS), and one at Hunting Cr. 22 Jul (L. Cartwright) were all in similar areas with summering flocks of immature gulls. The Sandgates **Kelp Gull** was reported four times in June and July (JK, v.o.). A white-winged gull at Chesapeake Beach 22 Jul (DBy) was tentatively identified as a Glaucous.

The Virginia Barrier Islands surveys reported much depressed numbers of Gull-billed Terns and Black Skimmers, both of which were found at only 3–4 sites; they were once widespread. Two Sandwich Terns at Skimmer I. through Jun (JLS, MJI, v.ob.) were seen copulating but apparently did not nest. Another Sandwich Tern was noted 21 Jul (M. Cribb) at Smith I., *Somerset*. Single Least Terns, more rarely 2, were noted throughout the season from the area of the George Washington Bridge, D.C., including Hunting Cr., Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Accotink Bay, and Ft. Belvoir. It seems apparent that the species nested somewhere in the area. This would be most noteworthy, although the species has at least once nested as far up the Potomac R. as the Kennedy Center. Bay colonies have been increasing and these inland sightings indicative of isolated nesting pairs have been ever more common in recent years. Black Terns are unusual in June, but were found at Hart (EJS et al.) and Poplar I. (MJI, JLS) 3 Jun and over Rte. 90 in Ocean City 23 Jun (C&D Broderick). One of the more surprising species on the 4 Jun pelagic trip to Maryland waters was a single **Atlantic Puffin** (APE et al., ph. m.ob.), which was followed by 2 more in Delaware waters (!), all apparently first-summer birds. Amazingly, Maryland has a good precedent for late May–June puffins, including records from 25 May and last year on 31 May. Apparently late puffins have also occurred in New Jersey and elsewhere, and this may be a more regular occurrence than some would expect.

CUCKOOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Black-billed Cuckoos included 4 Coastal Plain reports, mostly in July. Three Chuck-will's-widows at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, North Tract, *Anne Arundel*, 12 Jun were unusual in this traditionally whip-dominated area, where Whip-poor-will counts that night reached 39 (D. Perry). A Rufous Hummingbird at Ijamsville 17–20 Jul (S. Reinhardt) provided a *Frederick* 4th and was the 1st July report for Maryland, although recent East Coast records of ad. males have been that early.

Two very late Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's*, 13 Jun (FS), and one remained the next day (JLS). Willow Flycatchers did not push their range limits any farther this year, but single birds near their eastern boundary were at Dyke Marsh in Jun (KG) and Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, D.C., 24 Jun (PP).

A late migrant Cliff Swallow was at Hart 3 Jun (EJS), while the first fall migrant was noted 10 Jul (MH) at Lakeside Ponds, *Harford*. Loggerhead Shrike news was very good this year. A pair summered near Lilypons, *Frederick*, for the first time in several years, but unfortunately no one observed any young. Virginia hosted a number of shrikes, all presumably summering and attempting to nest. Confirmed breeders were a pair off Rte. 614 in *Culpeper*, VA, with 2 young 27 Jun (TMD, MJI); a pair at Foggy Bottom Rd., *Loudoun*, VA, that apparently produced one young, first noted 25 Jun (JC, G. Koppel); and a pair two miles away at Ebeneezer Church Rd., *Loudoun*, with 2 young 25 Jul (JC). The proximity of the latter two pairs leaves open the possibility of one wandering pair. Others reported only once (which thus may or may not have been nesting) included one off Rte. 6, *Goochland*, 21 Jun (M. Shapiro), 2 off Rte. 522 on 3 Jul (K. Venne), 2 off Rte. 647 near Batna, *Culpeper*, 18 Jul (TMD), and one off Rte. 615, *Culpeper*, 22 Jun (J. Taylor, D. Crookston). This boom in reports may be due in part to better reporting, but one can hope that some degree of recovery is occurring. Warbling Vireos near the eastern edge of their range were found at Dyke Marsh through the summer, with 5 on 3 Jun (P. Sullivan), and at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 24 Jun (PP). Ten Brown-headed Nuthatches counted in Neavitt,

SA Scissor-tailed Flycatchers stole the show this nesting season. Two birds discovered 15 Jun in s. *Culpeper* by Heatwole were seen nest-building that same afternoon by the quickly assembled admirers. The pair proceeded to successfully raise 4 young, and constituted the first nesting for Virginia and the Region, and the state's 218th confirmed breeding species. The nest was about 10 feet up on the northwest corner of a large metal transmission-wire pylon, the only such structure within miles. Day and others kept very close watch on the birds and noted incubation starting 18–19 Jun and the first fledglings 6–7 Jul. The popular *Culpeper* birds were by no means the only players, however. Other Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported from 30 May–4 Jul at Falling R. Country Club, *Appomadox* (†JD, TD, v.ob.), 29 Jun in Arlington, *Fairfax* (L. Friedman), 7 Jul at Rte. 460/627 in *Appomadox* (J. Kacmarcik), 24 Jun at the Rte. 660/698 intersection, *Prince Edward* (V. Copple, †JD, TD), 11 Jul at Catawba, *Halifax* (B. Kelly), 23–31 Jul on Rte. 600 near Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., *Northampton* (CB, M. Garland), and 24 Jul in *Campbell* (TD). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers also appeared in other eastern states in better-than-average numbers and were confirmed nesting for the first time in North Carolina, and also nested out of range in Georgia and Tennessee. Interestingly, the North Carolina nest was also around a power station. Such a well-defined spike in reports is easily linked to the severe drought that affected the Texas area this season, and our numerous Scissor-tails were undoubtedly birds prospecting new breeding grounds, because their regular sites were probably unsuitable. It may be more than coincidence that Dickcissels were centered in the same area of Virginia that produced the most reports: agricultural areas of the Piedmont just e. of the Appalachians. Perhaps driven east by the same phenomenon, a **Western Kingbird** 24 Jun (PP) at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens was a great find for D.C. and especially notable in June, when there are few records for the Region.

Talbot, 23–24 Jun (JR) were a good count near the n. limit of their range. A Red-breasted Nuthatch visiting a Worthington, *Howard*, feeder 4–18 Jul (E. & J. Metter) was an unusual appearance, although we have had summer reports nearly annually in recent years. Two Sedge Wrens at Truitt's Landing Rd. 2 Jun (SHD) were the only summer report.

Several Northern Parulas were noted at locally unusual locations during late June and July, and a suggestion was made that these birds may have been driven from more typical breeding areas to the west by Gypsy Moth damage. Blackpoll Warblers are always the latest spring migrants, with reports this year regularly through 4 Jun and one outlier 14 Jun (L. Okada) at Fairfax Station, *Fairfax*, VA. A Worm-eating Warbler banded at P.R.N.A.S. 5 Jun (PC) was presumably a late migrant, which is usually difficult to detect in this widespread breeding species. Certainly the most shocking warbler of the season was an ad. female Myrtle Warbler seen flycatching in a pine grove on Elliott I. 31 Jul (JLS). There is essentially no precedent for this species in the Region in mid-summer, save for one very old oddball breeding record in *Harford*. Slightly outside of the Region but worth mentioning were observations from G. Richard Thompson W.M.A., *Fauquier*, including a great count of 34 Cerulean Warblers 1 Jun (KG) and an unusual mid-summer Blackburnian Warbler there 1 Jul (KG, TMD). Blue-winged Warbler breeding was confirmed there in Jun (SH), one of few confirmations for n. Virginia.

Summer Tanagers are rare in the Piedmont but were reported from two of the more regular locations this season: the Potomac R., where a pair was at Old Angler's Inn, *Montgomery*, 21 Jun (CF), and Soldier's Delight Natural Area, *Baltimore*, where a pair was found at a nest 23 Jul and observed into Aug (K.E. Costley). Increased field work in n. Virginia found several Summer Tanagers in *Prince William* and one in *Fauquier* 8 Jun (KG, TMD).

An incredible success story in grassland restoration has been unfolding at Chino Farms in n. *Queen Anne's*. The environmentally conscious owner, in cooperation with the University of Maryland, planted 230 acres in native grasses (Mare's-Tail, *Conzyza canadensis*, dominates) in March 1999. Last year they estimated 100 breeding pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows and banded 73. This year 150 pairs were estimated, and 164 adults and 129 young were banded. Among those banded birds were only 20 males, 3 females, and no young from 1999. Also present (along with the Dickcissels) was one pair of Vesper Sparrows, but breeding was not confirmed. In contrast to

SA The Dickcissel invasion suggested by the spring reports was full-force by mid-Jun and one of the largest, if not the most widespread, on record. Several individuals (KG, TMD, SR) made specific efforts to survey the species in n. Virginia, with great success. The center of their distribution was in *Culpeper* and *Fauquier* Counties, where there was abundant habitat and the majority of suitable fields had singing birds. In *Culpeper* at least 47 birds were found at 7 locations, while a single day of searching 17 Jun (KG, TMD) produced a remarkable 31 males and 2 females. *Loudoun* had at least 9 in 3 locations, *Prince William* had 4 at 2 locations, Numbers were lower in Maryland. At least 7 males were found at 3 *Carroll* locations and 13+ males were in the Frederick Valley, *Frederick*, during June–July (v.ob.). In *Saint Mary's* one male was at Longneck Rd. 14 Jun (PC) and 4 males were in *Kent* 14 Jun (MJI). In Virginia birds were at single locations in *Chesapeake* (2 males) and *Orange* (2 males). *Queen Anne's* had birds at three locations, including 5 males at Centreville and 8 pairs at Chino Farms (12 adults banded) which attempted at least 5 nestings in June–July, 4 re-nestings in late July–August. Of the June–July nestings only one was successful, while all later nestings were successful, each producing 1–2 young. The Piedmont records fall along a well-defined sw.-ne. path, suggesting perhaps that birds followed up the valley. As with the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, it seems clear that this invasion was a product of the drought in the south-central states.

the multiple reports last year, this year there was but one White-throated Sparrow, at Epping Forest, *Anne Arundel*, 20 Jun (SRi). Only a few Bobolinks breed in the Piedmont fields of the Region. This year reports indicative of breeding included 2 males at Keysville, *Carroll*, 24 Jun (RFR), a male at Oland Rd., 30 Jun (DBy), and at least 3 at Ebeneezer School Rd., *Loudoun*, VA, in June and July (KG, TMD). Although the species is an inveterate wanderer, a sighting of a Red Crossbill on Fisherman I. 31 Jul (CB) was one of the more surprising sightings this summer.

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southern atlantic coast

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Temperatures this summer were about average, compared to the last several years, with no extended periods of really hot weather. But precipitation exceeded normal levels for much of the region. The drought conditions present from middle Georgia south were still present but lessening after much–needed rain in July. Other areas saw one of the wettest summers in recent memory. Wet weather can be detrimental to nesting success, but luckily no widespread instances of breeding failure were reported. The number of rarities reported was down, but nevertheless some interesting highlights included more Bermuda Petrels off North Carolina, a lingering Roseate Spoonbill in that state, Georgia's first documented Curlew Sandpiper, and nesting Scissor–tailed Flycatchers at several locations.

Abbreviations: BRC (Bird Records Committee); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, *Clayton*, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, *Jasper*, SC).

LOONS THROUGH WOOD STORK

Rare summer reports of Common Loon included one on L. Hickory, NC, 7 Jun (D&LM) and two at L. Water F. George, GA, 22 Jul (MB). North Carolina pelagic trips once again produced some of the rare gadfly petrels: one Herald Petrel off Hatteras 4 Jun (BP et al.) and two off Oregon Inlet 4 Jun (F.O.N.T.). One Fea's Petrel was found off Hatteras 15 Jul (BP et al.) for the only report. **Bermuda Petrel** again made news, with singles off Oregon Inlet 2 Jun (BP et al.) and 3 Jun (F.O.N.T.). These, coupled with the previous week's three, brought the year's count to an unprecedented five sightings. Numbers of Black–capped Petrels and the expected shearwater and storm–petrel species were about average. The very rare–in–summer Manx Shearwater was found off Hatteras on three different dates, with singles 4 Jun, 16 Jul, and 29 Jul (BP et al.). The always exciting White–faced Storm–Petrel was found once out of Oregon Inlet in mid–Jul (AF *fide* BP). White-tailed Tropicbirds were once again hard to find, but two were seen off Hatteras 15 Jul and one was found there 29 Jul (BP et al.). Locally rare in summer, 12 American White Pelicans were at the S.S.S. from late Jun through Jul (SC). Unusual inland, Brown Pelicans were found at L. Walter F. George Dam, GA, 22 July (MB) and Falls Lake, NC, 26 Jul (*fide* BB). The rare–but–regular Magnificent Frigatebird was found twice, with high–flying singles at Hilton Head I., SC, 3 Jun (SCo, MD) and at Cape Hatteras, NC, 6 Jun (WI).

Long–legged waders wandered inland from coastal sites in about average numbers, the lone exception being White Ibis, which was reported considerably more than normal throughout the region. Of interest was the American Bittern found at Grand Bay W.M.A., GA, 12 Jun (*fide* BBe), a species which is at best casual in that state in summer. Reddish Egret numbers were about normal, with the best count being 3 at Little Tybee I., GA, 8–9 Jul (DB et al., MB et al.). Roseate Spoonbills away from the usual s. Georgia coastal sites were one at Harris Neck N.W.R., GA, 22 Jul (DC) and the P.I. bird present from the spring, which remained through the period (m.ob.). In North Carolina Wood Storks normally move to the Sunset Beach, *Brunswick*, area in summer, thus one at Falls Lake, 29 Jun (*fide* BB) was out of place.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Lingering waterfowl of note included a Snow Goose at L. Walter F. George, GA, 4 Jun (JS), a Tundra Swan at P.I. all summer (BC), several Ring–necked Ducks from all three states, and a Lesser Scaup at the Jacksonville W.T.P., NC, in early Jul (NM, JO). Noteworthy breeding records involved a female Blue–winged Teal with 6 juveniles at the S.S.S. 26 Jun (SC), a female Hooded Merganser with 3 young along the Chattahoochee R., Atlanta, GA, 11 Jun (ET), and a female Ruddy Duck with 7 chicks at the S.S.S. 9 Jun (SC).

A Swallow–tailed Kite was a surprise far inland in *DeKalb*, GA, 22 Jul (*fide* TM). A Mississippi Kite nest found near Newport, NC, 12 Jul (JFe, JF) not only added to the growing number of nesting locations for that state, but was the first to be located in the outer coastal plain. A Northern Harrier at the S.S.S. 31 July was extremely early if it was a fall migrant (SC). Sandhill Cranes provided unusual summer reports, with one over Decatur, GA, and two in *Douglas*, GA, both 24 Jul (*fide* TM).

The southbound shorebird migration started as usual in late June–early July. Some of the more unusual inland sightings

involved 2 American Avocets at Falls Lake, NC, 13 Jul (KF) and a Whimbrel at L. Crabtree, Wake, NC, 15 Jul (RP). Georgia had the only Long–billed Curlews, with one at Little Tybee I. 12 Jul (DB) and 2 on Little St. Simons I. 22 Jul (EK). Little Tybee I. also hosted Georgia's first documented **Curlew Sandpiper**, present 5–10 Jul (DB, m.ob.); photos should put the species on the state list. The only Wilson's Phalarope reported was at Onslow I., GA, 29 Jul (BZ).

Only 3 South Polar Skuas were found off North Carolina this summer, one off Hatteras 4 Jun and 2 there 29 Jul (BP et al.). Jaeger numbers were about average, although 19 Pomarines off Hatteras 29 Jul was a good one-day total (BP et al.). Two Long–tailed Jaegers off Murrell's Inlet, SC, 17 Jun (JP, DBa) provided a very rare report; there are only a handful of sightings and one specimen from that state. Unusual gull sightings included 2 Laughings at Walter F. George Lake, GA, 11 Jun (MB et al.) and a rare–in–summer Bonaparte's at the S.S.S. 9 & 26 Jun (SC). Some terns were found offshore in good numbers this summer: the Arctic Tern peak was 33 off Hatteras 3 Jun (BP et al.); 10 Bridleds off C. Lookout, NC, 23 Jul (BCa); and 86 Sooties off Hatteras 29 Jul (BP et al.), that species' peak.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Eurasian Collared–Doves continued to spread in the region, with birds being found on the n. Outer Banks and inland as far as the western Piedmont of North Carolina. The Beaufort, NC, White–winged Dove was still present at least until early Jun (JF, ST et al.), having been present there for one–two years. Black-billed Cuckoos were once again found in e. North Carolina, with up to 3 in Croatan N.F. 1 June (JF), one at L. Phelps 3 Jun (ML), and 2 at Alligator R. N.W.R. 13 Jul (JL). It was not determined if any of these were late migrants. An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** provided an extremely rare and unusual summer report away from the mountains in s. *Forsyth*, NC, 25 Jun and 9 Jul (RS, RB); summer reports are practically unheard of in the region. Several noteworthy late migrant flycatchers included a Willow at P.I. 2 Jun (GA et al.), another Willow at Ft. Bragg, NC, in early Jun (AS), and a Least at Ossabaw I., GA, 4 Jun (ME). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continued to make news in the region. The nesting pair first noted in the spring in McDonough, GA, fledged young around 24 Jun (*fide* TM). In North Carolina a pair near Monroe, *Union*, first seen in early Jun (EO, A&BO), nested and successfully fledged young by 15 Jul (sev. ob.). Other Scissor-taileds found in Georgia included singles in *Emanuel* 4 Jun, at Piedmont N.W.R. 6 Jun, and in *Pickens* 10 Jun (*fide* TM). North Carolina singles

An enigmatic, striking species, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has now bred "Coast to coast" in North America. To a breeding record for California in the late 1970s and early 1980s we can add breeding records from Georgia and North Carolina. In the latter state, this adult (right) and fledgling (left) photographed 15 Jul 2000 were part of a successful nest near Monroe, *Union*, providing a first nesting record for the state. *Photograph by Mary Welty.*

were near Scotland Neck 11 Jun (JL, JW) and near Raleigh 10 Jul (*fide* RD). Warbling Vireos were found at several locations. Two were on territory in *Cleveland*, NC, in early Jun (ST, JM) and 2 were still singing at a farm in *Orange*, NC, 4 Jul (WC). The latter birds, present there since spring, probably nested. Two Cedar Waxwings found in s. *Forsyth*, GA, 30 Jun (JFl) were quite rare, and if they nested, would provide that state's southernmost breeding report.

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

Several lingering warblers were found this summer. Three singing Black-throated Blues were in the Ft. Bragg, NC, area in early Jun (SCa); Yellow-rumpeds were at Ocracoke, NC, 17 Jun (PV), at York, SC, 19 Jun (BH), and in *Barnwell*, SC, 24 Jun (PC); a Blackpoll was at C. Lookout, NC, 7 Jun (JF); and a Northern Waterthrush was in Athens, GA, 5 Jun (BD). A Lark Sparrow was a surprise near Tallapoosa, *Haralson*, GA, 25 Jul (MB), a most unexpected sighting for the summer. In North Carolina, breeding of this species has historically occurred in the Sandhills region. This year several were at Ft. Bragg in early Jun (AS), and 3 adults with 5 fledged young were found in *Scotland*, 21–28 Jun (BG). The Henslow's Sparrow surveys at the two VOA sites in e. North Carolina near Greenville, turned up 140 singing males 3–4 Jun (JW). The numbers are slightly down from previous years, but the species is apparently still in good shape at the two areas. A female Painted Bunting was rather late at P.I. 8 Jun (JL); the species does not nest on the Outer Banks. Noteworthy Dickcissel reports included several in *Bartow*, GA, (CL), up to 3 in *Cleveland*, NC, 7 Jun (ST, JM), one at Pettigrew St. Pk, NC, 25 Jun (HL, JPi), and 3 near Margaret, *Franklin*, NC, 25 Jun (RD). Of the latter, one was a female carrying food, very suggestive of breeding. Late migrant Bobolinks included a male along the Chattahoochee R., Atlanta, GA, 12 Jun (ET) and a pair near Margaret, NC, 1 Jun (RD). Shiny Cowbirds continue to invade the region. This season's sightings involved a female on Blackbeard I., GA, 7 Jul (PS), a male at Darien, GA, 21 Jul (EB), and a male at Ft. Macon, NC, in early Jul (*fide* JF). In North Carolina, Baltimore Orioles were found far to the east, with one at Ft. Bragg in early Jun (AS), and a female feeding a juvenile 9 Jul in Raleigh (*fide* HL). Although no nest was found, the evidence is very strong that breeding occurred there, very unusual that far east.

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 352.

florida

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Below-normal rains during June and July, the first half of the Florida "rainy season," did little to replenish parched lakes and wetlands. The unusually dry conditions caused a birding bonanza, with unprecedented numbers of wading birds and shorebirds exploiting mudflats and

remnant wetlands at places like Newnan's Lake, and Myakka Lake. In the Everglades, prolonged winter/spring dry-down conditions contributed to a "stupendous" year for wading bird nesting (P. Frederick).

On a personal note: it has been a privilege to prepare this account for 20 years, but it's time to stop. The joys of reading and assembling all the contributions are undeniable, but we believe it's best for someone with a different view of the nesting season in this fascinating state to offer a fresh perspective. To the hundreds of contributors who provided the lifeblood of each account, and to the area compilers who conscientiously assembled reports and offered their own interpretations of local events, "Thank You." We hope you will be as generous with the new seasonal reporter as you have been with us.

Abbreviations: A.B.B.I. (Apalachicola Bay Bird Island); C. P. (County Park); L.A.R.A. (Lake Apopka Restoration Area); P.P.M. (Polk Phosphate Mines); R.S.R.S.R. (Rock Springs Run State Reserve); S.G.I. (St. George Island); S.R.S.T.F. (Springhill Road Sewage Treatment Facility); S.C.P. (Saddle Creek Park); S.R.A. (State Recreation Area); W.C.A. (Water Conservation Area); W.T.F. (Wastewater Treatment Facility).

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Lone Common Loons, scarce summer residents, were found 6 Jul at St. Marks (SAC), and off Hernando Beach 30 Jul (RP, AP, BP). Scarcer still were 2 moribund imm. Northern Gannets, one at Ft. Myers Beach 23 Jun (CE) and the other at Bayport Pier, *Hernando*, 15 Jul (CB). American White Pelicans summer locally in Florida, but this year they seemed unusually widespread, with 16 reports from all over the region (m.ob.). Brown Pelican nesting numbers and nesting success were below normal at Marco I. (THB), Tampa Bay (RP, AP), and the East coast (SN, SS). A female Magnificent Frigatebird was well north of usual haunts at St. Marks Light 28 Jun (KK).

Single American Bitterns 24 Jun at Lighthouse Pool, St. Marks N.W.R. (KA, JD) and 28 Jun at L.A.R.A. (HR) furnished unusual summer reports, while 91 Least Bitterns at Blue Heron W.T.F., Titusville, on 26 Jun were simply remarkable (DS). A Great White Heron at Seminole, *Pinellas*, 22 Jun was well north of normal range (JF). Reddish Egrets nested at two new sites, Matlacha Pass (JC) and near Cocoa (SN, SS). Up to 12 Reddish Egrets, including one white-morph bird, at St. Marks through the period (JR et al.) and 24 at Ding Darling N.W.R. 6 Jun (BA) were high numbers locally, while an immature was inland at Myakka River S.P. 7 Jun (TE, FF). Roseate Spoonbills continued to increase in Tampa Bay, with 187 pairs at six sites (RP, AP). Another 15 pairs nested at the Alley North colony in W.C.A. 3 (PCF), and about 10 were at Corkscrew for the 2nd straight year (THB). Perhaps expected in a dry year, "pink curlews" were found rather widely in interior Florida (m.ob.), with the highest count 70+ at Myakka River S.P. 7 Jun (TE, FF). Wood Storks failed to nest at L. Jackson, where the entire lake drained into a sinkhole (GS), but numbers were up at three colonies near Tampa (AP) and a new colony of 12 nests was found at a w. *Pasco* golf course (KT). At Corkscrew Swamp **1722** pairs of storks nested successfully (THB), so over **3500** pairs of storks nested in s. Florida for the first time in more than 25 years. Dry-down conditions produced large concentrations of wading birds even in urban lakes such as L. Davis in Orlando, where some 500 waders, mostly storks, were found 10 Jun (CL).

SA A year ago, wading-bird nesting in the Everglades system was termed the best since 1992. This year was even better: Frederick reported a long spring dry-down and the largest overall nesting effort in nearly 30 years, especially in W.C.A. 3. In the W.C.A.s alone, he reported over 30,000 nesting pairs of waders, including the following numbers of pairs: Great Blue Heron 525, Great Egret 3134 (about normal), Snowy Egret **3538** (four times the recent average for the area and including **2000** at one site, surely the largest Snowy colony in the state in many, many years!), Little Blue Heron 473 (slightly below the recent average), White Ibis >21,000 (**20,000** at one site) and Wood Stork >**1800**. Noting the extreme drought that afflicted the entire southeast and the failure of some colonies in other states and in n. Florida to form, Frederick suggested that the Everglades may have been virtually the only area in the entire region that retained significant water levels. As a result, thousands of waders may have nested in the Everglades that in other years would have nested elsewhere. In contrast, nesting of most waders in the Tampa Bay area (RP, AP), Pine Island (JC), and near Marco (THB) was generally poor.

WHISTLING-DUCKS THROUGH PLOVERS

Two hundred Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found at Belle Glade 8 Jul (JB, CE, WW). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to show up in new cen. Florida locations, with 3 at Clearwater 16–21 Jun (m. ob.) and 31 in an abandoned phosphate pit near Bartow 6 Jun (PF, RE). A Canada Goose made a brief appearance at Seminole 2 Jul (PB). This season produced a number of unusual summer ducks. At L.A.R.A., an **American Black Duck** was seen daily from 3–19 Jun (HR). Mottled Ducks were prevalent through the period at L.A.R.A. (HR) and at L. Myakka, where 200 were found 7 Jun (TE, FF). Small numbers of Mallards also spent the summer at L.A.R.A. (HR). Summering Blue-winged Teal were reported from St. Marks, P.P.M., L.A.R.A., and Belle Glade, but nesting was not noted (m.ob.). Rare in summer were a Northern Shoveler at S.R.S.T.F. 12 Jun (GM), 2 Gadwall at P.P.M. 6 Jun (PF, RE), and an American Wigeon at Myakka River S.P. 7 Jun (TE, FF). Summer sightings of Ring-necked Ducks included 2 on 6 Jun at P.P.M. (PF, RE) and a drake at Viera, *Brevard*, 17 Jul (DS). A female Lesser Scaup was noted on 29 Jul at S.R.S.T.F. (MC), and a single Ruddy Duck was spotted on 14 Jun at L.A.R.A. (HR).

At St. Marks, Seven Swallow-tailed Kites were observed 25 Jun (SC, TT), 16 on 6 July (SAC), and 8 on 11 Jul (JBu). In *Volusia*, 29 Swallow-taileds were spotted 26 Jul over the St. Johns R. marshes (CH). Extremely rare breeders in Florida, a White-tailed Kite was at L.A.R.A. 30 Jun (HR) and another was at Belle Glade 2–15 Jul (JB et al.). Two Mississippi Kites, one adult and one immature, were seen separately 2 Jun–21 Jul over a wooded creek in s. Jacksonville (JPC). Two Mississippis were at St. Marks 25 Jun (SAC) and 5 more from 19–25 Jul (JR). The Wildlife Commission's statewide survey of Bald Eagles found 1069 active territories, continuing the steady increase of the past 15 years. An estimated 1165 young were fledged (SN). Very rare in Florida in summer, 1–4 Northern Harriers were seen regularly all season at L.A.R.A. (HR). Perhaps even more surprising, single Sharp-shinned Hawks were found four times at L.A.R.A (HR). Cooper's Hawks continued to increase in central Florida, with reports from three *Hillsborough* localities, L.A.R.A., and Cape Coral (m.ob.). A

dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was seen 12 Jun at Lettuce Lake C.P., an unusual locality (BA), and another 28 Jul at S.C.P. (PF). A pair of American Kestrels was seen all season in w. *Duval*, where they are scarce nesters (RC).

A rarity in *Pinellas*, a female Wild Turkey was seen 16 Jul (JF). On 26 Jun at Blue Heron W.T.F., DS heard 31 King Rails and saw 39 Purple Gallinules, both impressive totals. Up to 19 Purple Gallinules and 58 American Coots were present through the period at L.A.R.A (HR). The season's high count of 113 coots was made 6 Jun at P.P.M. (PF, RE). Last season Pranty noted the near-successful nesting attempt of introduced Whooping Cranes. Among other encouraging signs, 15 pairs were formed, 8 defended territories, and 3 laid eggs (SN). What will next year bring? A high count of 16 Snowy Plovers, including 3 chicks, was made at North Anclote Bar, *Pasco*, 6 Jul (PB); at Sanibel a pair with 3 juveniles was found 13 Jul for a welcome indication of nesting success there (WD). Ten Wilson's Plover nests were found at Shell Key (PB) and 17 pairs were at Three Rooker Bar (ND), the two most dependable *Pinellas* plover sites. Two pairs of Wilson's with chicks were found at St. Marks in June (JR, SC, TT). A Semipalmated Plover at St. Marks 24 Jun (JD, KA) may have been summering, while 3 at L.A.R.A. 23 Jul were clearly migrants (HR). Earliest returning Piping Plovers were 3 each at Three Rooker Bar and Honeymoon I. S.R.A. 8 Jul (PB), and one at Bald Point, *Franklin*, 11 Jul (GS).

OYSTERCATCHERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

American Oystercatchers nesting in Hillsborough Bay were stable at 81 pairs (RP, AP). Four pairs nested at Three Rooker Bar (ND) and 13 at Shell Key (PB), sites highly vulnerable to predation and human disturbance. One enterprising w. Tampa pair nested on a rooftop (SP, PR et al.). Inexplicably rare in n. Florida, 9 oystercatchers were found at St. Marks 5 Jun, with up to 7 remaining through 24 Jul (JR). Six broods of Black-necked Stilts were found at St. Marks in the period (JR), the only report for the season despite drydown conditions. Three breeding-plumaged American Avocets were found at St. Marks 4 Jun (DS); another was there 29 Jul (WC), while 2 more were present all season at L.A.R.A. (HR). A few Greater Yellowlegs summered at L.A.R.A. (HR). Earliest Lesser Yellowlegs reported were 8 on 28 Jun and 11 on 30 Jun at L.A.R.A. (HR), and 2 at Belle Glade 2 Jul (JB, CE, WW). Single Solitary Sandpipers were found 8 Jun at Crystal River State Buffer Preserve (A&BH), 28 Jun at Carillon, St. Petersburg (PB, KN), and 12 Jul at L.A.R.A. (HR). Willets often escape survey, but 36 pairs at Island 2D in Hillsborough Bay (AP, BP), 25 at Shell Key (PB), and 15 at Three Rooker Bar (ND) were high local counts. A late Spotted Sandpiper was—you guessed it—spotted 1 Jun at S.R.S.T.F. (GM), while earliest returning birds were 2 each at Alligator Point on 3 & 10 Jul (JD), plus another at S.R.S.T.F. 10 Jul (GM). Six Whimbrels at Tigertail Beach, Marco I., 6 Jul were early migrants (BB), but 3 Long-billed Curlews summered in *Pinellas* (*fide* PB) and up to 8 Marbled Godwits did likewise at St. Marks (JR et al.). Late northbound Red Knots were one at St. Marks 4 Jun (DS) and an astonishing 100 at Shell Key 12 Jun (PB, KN). One Semipalmated Sandpiper persisted all June at L.A.R.A. (HR), where July counts peaked at 132 on the 23rd (HR). Noteworthy n. FL counts were 120 and 63 Semipalmateds, respectively, at S.R.S.T.F. on 1 and 6 Jun (GM). Earliest returning Western Sandpipers were reported 8 Jul at St. Marks (one, JD) and L.A.R.A. (4, HR). Up to 32 Pectoral Sandpipers were found at L.A.R.A. in July (HR), but the earliest of the season were 5+ at Belle Glade 8 Jul (JB, CE, WW). A Dunlin in breeding plumage 14 Jul at St. Marks was presumably an early migrant (GM, DH). A Stilt Sandpiper in breeding plumage at St. Marks 4 Jun (DS) possibly represented just the 5th June sighting, while one at S.R.S.T.F. 10 Jul was thought the earliest ever *Leon* fall arrival (GM); another at Viera 17 Jul still retained its breeding plumage (DS). Ninety-one Stilt Sandpipers at Carillon 28 Jul (JF) were a high summer count. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Belle Glade on 8 Jul (JB, CE, WW) and L.A.R.A. on 23 Jul (HR).

In response to habitat loss (erosion) at Passage Key and raccoon predation at Shell Key, Laughing Gulls nesting in Tampa Bay moved around a bit, but overall remained stable at 15,000+ pairs (ND, JG, JK, AP, BP, RP). The S.G.I. colony increased to 2700 pairs (JG), while "hordes" of juveniles at Wards Bank 30 Jul (NW) suggested successful nesting there. Ever a mystery, about 20 Gull-billed Terns were found nesting at Ward's Bank 30 Jul (NW), with the only other nesting reports being six nests at A.B.B.I. (JG) and one in Hillsborough Bay (AP, BP). Caspian Terns totaled 267 pairs at three colonies, 148 at A.B.B.I. alone (JG, AP, RP). This is the most ever found in Florida, where they were not known to nest prior to 1962. Royal Terns totaled nearly 4900 pairs at six sites and Sandwich Terns 560 at five, with the high counts of 2730 and 450, both at Passage Key (RP, AP, ND, JG). Common Terns belied their name with just 16 at St. Marks Light 4 Jun (DS), one at L.A.R.A. 28 Jun (HR), and one at Indian Rocks Beach 15 Jul (JF). Amid the usual scattering of Least Tern nesting reports, the three largest colonies were 150 pairs on rooftops of the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus (BBA, TB), 142 at S.G.I. Causeway (JG), and 100 at Ft. Matanzas N.M. (*fide* PP). Of 110 flying Leasts 2 Jul at the Lighthouse Pool, St. Marks, 70% were immatures, suggesting outstanding nesting somewhere (JR). About 1100 pairs of Black Skimmers were found at six Tampa Bay area colonies (RP, AP, ND, JG), including three nests on a St. Petersburg rooftop (BBA, TB).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Large numbers of White-crowned Pigeons were seen in the Upper Keys in late May and June, while low numbers were reported from the Lower Keys. Possibly this was due to the abundance of fruit on *Ficus* trees in the Upper Keys plus two years of hurricane impacts to upland hammocks in the Lower Keys (RSa). Single White-winged Doves were reported from Key West 26 Jul (JO), Spring Hill 31 Jul (A&BH), and intermittently through the period in e. Tampa (RP, AP). Smooth-billed Ani numbers have declined in recent years, so news of 4 near Belle Glade 9 Jul (VM, WW) and an "ani species" at Immokalee 5 Jun (RW) were welcome. Extremely rare in Florida in summer, a Short-eared Owl chased a Chuck-will's-widow at L.A.R.A. 28 Jul (PF, LA). Common and Antillean Nighthawks were considered unusually scarce this season in the Upper Keys (RSa), and the latter were virtually absent from regular feeding areas near the Key West airport (JO). In Crystal River, TR had an impressive eight Chuck-will's-widows in her backyard 8 Jun, while in Cape Coral a female apparently moved her nest 50 yards in the course of a week (CE)! Possibly unprecedented was the Whip-poor-will singing at dusk throughout the period at R.S.R.S.R. (PS). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds summered at Weeki Wachee (3, CB) and Spring Hill (1, A&BH), with 3 more seen in Crystal River 8 Jun (TR) and still another at

Withlacoochee Bay Trail, *Citrus*, 3 Jul (TR). Hairy Woodpeckers have virtually vanished from most of Florida, so a pair at ne. Cape Coral 11 Jun through the end of the period was significant (CE). At St. Marks, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers had their most successful nesting season in over 20 years, with 19 birds in seven clusters fledging 14 young (MK).

An Eastern Wood-Pewee calling at McKethan Lake, *Hernando*, 10 July furnished one of a few summer reports from the cen. Peninsula in the last 20 years and south of known breeding range limits; it was not seen again (A&BH). Presumably a spring migrant, a Western Kingbird lingered at St. Marks 5 Jun (DS). Gray Kingbirds nested successfully in the Upper Keys (RSa); two at Huguenot Park, *Duval*, 30 Jul were quite far north (NW). Still farther out of range at L.A.R.A. was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** on 23 Jul (HR). Early-staging Purple Martins at Ft. Lauderdale totaled 500 on 24 Jun and about 1500 by 8 Jul (DS, BPa, SE). Earliest southbound Tree Swallows were single birds at Belle Glade 2 Jul (JB, CE), St. Marks 20 Jul (JD, KA), and L.A.R.A. 23 Jul (PF, LA). On the same date at L.A.R.A., 9 Northern Rough-winged Swallows hinted at local nesting (PF, LA), while an immature at St. Marks 23 Jul was just the 2nd July report for *Leon* (GM). Barn Swallows nested under bridges at Micanopy (AP, RP), St. Marks (JR), L.A.R.A. (PF, LA), and possibly Lake Rousseau, where 42 were present on 17 Jul (TR). Early fall migrants at L.A.R.A. were 1–3 Bank Swallows 16–31 Jul and a Cliff Swallow on 23 and 26 Jul (HR). In the past decade, Blue Jays have expanded southward in the Upper Keys and are now "quite common" all the way to Islamorada (RSa). The first movements of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers into the Upper Keys were detected in mid-July, about two weeks early (RSa).

An American Robin sang for the second summer in the Lower Wekiva R. S.P. *Seminole*, 28 Jun (PS). A Gray Catbird was observed at Baldwin, *Duval*, 16 Jul, where they are considered a rare nesting species (RR). On 27 Jun a pair of Common Mynas was found nesting in a utility pole in Key West, the first nesting report from that locality (JO, LM). Even in a drought year, singing Yellow-throated Vireos were common through the period in s. *Pasco* (DSu). At L.A.R.A. Yellow Warblers made two July appearances, with one on the 19th and 4 on the 30th, and Prairie Warblers three appearances: 2 on the 19th, 3 on the 26th, and 2 on the 30th (HR). Another Prairie was seen 30 Jul at Ft. George I., *Duval* (NW). Black-and-white Warblers, usually expected about the first week of Aug in the Upper Keys, appeared early in mid-Jul (RSa). Always among the earliest of migrants, a Louisiana Waterthrush was noted in *Leon* 23 Jun (FR). Yellow-breasted Chats were seen all summer at L.A.R.A. (HR). Two male chats in song were seen at Crystal River S.B.P. 1 Jun–4 Jul for the 3rd summer in a row, without proof of nesting (A&BH).

Dry conditions at L.A.R.A. spawned extensive brushy flats, excellent for Northern Cardinals and other species. Through the period HR found 50–90 cardinals, 20–39 Blue Grosbeaks, and small numbers of Indigo and Painted Buntings on his twice-weekly surveys. Up to 5 Dickcissels were present at L.A.R.A. in early June, but were not found after the 9th (HR). It's usually easy to overlook widespread birds like cardinals, but in Key West just a single pair is known; happily it fledged one young in July (JO). A singing Indigo Bunting was slightly south of expected range in mid-*Pinellas* 16–19 Jul (JF). About 2 dozen Painted Buntings were found in the hammocks of Amelia Island 5 Jul, an usually high number (CL). Two Painteds were still singing at Ft. George I. 30 Jul (NW).

"Many" Bachman's Sparrows nested at Brooker Creek Preserve, *Pinellas*, and Cypress Creek Wellfield, *Pasco* (DSu). A male Shiny Cowbird came to a feeder on Bald Point 4 & 11 Jul (JD), while in Key West 1–3 were seen all season long (JO). As last year, Orchard Orioles were seen throughout the period at L.A.R.A., with a maximum of 5 birds noted on 19 Jun (HR). One male and one female House Finch at a sw. Ocala feeder 26–29 Jun had apparently been there for some time (CE), suggesting area nesting, while a singing male and a female at a feeder in Lutz, *Pasco*, 15–16 Jul were well beyond known breeding areas (DB). American Goldfinches have not been confirmed nesting in FL, but in recent years there have been some hints. This year a brilliant male visited a backyard feeder in Monticello 4 Jun, followed by a female 13 Jul (GM, RA).

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Cool, wet weather dominated this period in the southern and the northern parts of the province, creating lush conditions which brought in a plethora of exciting bird sightings. Birds seemed to sing longer because of the wet conditions and were therefore recorded more frequently during surveys in June. Hot summer days did not arrive until later in June. The outstanding rarity was an Anhinga which arrived in mid-July west of London and was present into September. Other exciting finds were a moribund storm-petrel at Long Point and a Lewis's Woodpecker in *Northumberland*. All these rarities and the others mentioned below are subject to the approval of the Ontario Bird Records Committee.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Area); L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory, *Haldimand-Norfolk*); Pelee (Pt. Pelee Nat'l. Park and vicinity, *Essex*); ROM (Royal Ontario Museum). Algonquin, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, or regional municipalities.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons 5 Jun at Hasting's Drive, *Haldimand-Norfolk* (IR), and 8 Jun at the base of Long Pt., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (LMu) were late stragglers, as were single Common Loons at Selkirk P.P., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 20 Jul (JBM) and Pinery P.P., *Lambton* (AR). An ad. Pied-billed Grebe at Tavistock, Oxford, 4 Jul may have been an early southbound migrant (JMH). A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was at Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, from 24 Jun for at least five weeks, but no evidence of breeding was found (RS, GCo, LJ). Another was on Lake Ontario off Burlington, *Halton*, 8 Jul (KAM). Both were unusually far s. for the season. Up to 6 pairs of Red-necked Grebes attempted to nest in the Bronte Harbour Marina, *Halton* (GE); a pair at Scotch Block Reservoir in Milton, *Halton*, was at an unusual site (BK). Two pairs successfully raised one young each at Kelley Lake, *Sudbury*, for a first confirmed nesting in the area (JL, CBl). A single bird at Lerome Lake, Atikokan, *Rainy River*, 20 Jul was rare for summer (DE). An Eared Grebe at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 15–17 Jun was highly unusual (THo, m.ob.), as was another at Grand Bend S.T.P., *Lambton*, 1 Jun (AR). An alternate-plumaged male was at Tavistock, *Oxford*, from May to 3 Jun for *Oxford's* first June record (JMH). A dying storm-petrel was picked up by boaters off Pottohawk Pt. in the area of L.P.B.O. 13 Jul (RR, IR). It was identified as a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, and the specimen has been deposited at the ROM (MP). Over 10 American White Pelicans were at the waterfront at Thunder Bay 28 Jun (BB); 2 others, rare for s. Ontario in summer, were at L.P.B.O. 8 Jun (DGo, IR), and one flew over Dundas Marsh, *Hamilton-Wentworth* 8 Jul (DMo). As a sign of the ever-increasing population of Double-crested Cormorants in the Great Lakes Region, over 600 imm. birds were at Kettle Pt., *Lambton*, 11 Jun (AR).

SA The great attraction of the season was an **Anhinga** found 17 Jul at the Delaware Sportsman Club Marsh, *Middlesex* (LM). Except for absences of varying lengths of time, it remained in the marsh well into September, occupying the same perch every night; it has been seen by over 1500 observers. This is only the second accepted record for Ontario. A specimen (now missing) was collected at West Lake, *Prince Edward*, 7 Sep 1904 (RJ). Another specimen from 1881 from Garden River, *Algoma*, has not been accepted as a valid record (RJ).

Sightings of Great Egrets in many parts of the province confirm the increasing spread of this species. Particularly noteworthy were single birds at Lake Travers, *Algonquin*, 29–31 Jul (CaR, ChR, et al.) and 30 Jul at Atikokan, *Rainy River*, the 5th for the district (DGr, DE). At Presqu'ile 3 pairs were nesting (*fide* MR), and 5 individuals were in stormwater ponds at the side of Hwy. 407, in Mississauga, *Peel* (GC). Two Snowy Egrets at Fort Erie, *Niagara*, 15 Jun (JSp), one at Rondeau 10 Jun (JTB), and one at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 17 Jun were unusual (RS, SE, DSh). A Tricolored Heron at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, made a fleeting appearance on 31 Jul (*fide* SR). Two ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Kelley Lake, *Manitoulin*, 25–31 Jul (CBl, JL). Vagrant Black Vultures continue to increase. Single birds were at Backus Woods, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 10 Jun (JF), at Hillman Marsh, *Essex*, 30 Jul (R&SM), and on the Bruce Peninsula, *Grey-Bruce*, 5 Jul

(DGa,DL). Near Kakabeka Falls, *Thunder Bay*, 88 Turkey Vultures 23 Jul were an unprecedented number for the area (JHo).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An out-of-season Snow Goose was at the Mitchell S.T.P., *Perth*, 30 Jul (DB). A pair of Canada Geese with 4 goslings at Pogonia Lake in Algonquin 8 Jun was a rare sighting for the park (PS). A late Brant was at Cobourg, *Northumberland*, 3 Jun (CEG). On 17 May, 2 Eurasian Wigeons were at Robinson Lake, *Sudbury*, for only the second record for the area (BCo); one was at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, 16 Jun (PH), and another was at the Grimsby S.T.P., *Niagara*, 9 Jul (KAM). A Cinnamon Teal was in Slate River Valley, *Thunder Bay*, 18 Jun and had been seen on earlier occasions (PRo). Eight juvenile Northern Shovelers at Lakefield S.T.P. 20–21 Jul provided evidence of the first breeding record for the Peterborough area (FH, PB, DrM). After a pair set a first breeding record for Toronto last year (see Nesting Season 1999) Canvasbacks produced three nests at the Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, this season and provided the first nest record for Ontario (GCo, MP, RS). Apparently only 2 young survived out of at least 21 eggs (details to be published, GCo). Two female Redheads with broods of recently hatched young were evidence of successful breeding for the 4th year at the Tollgate Ponds in Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 26 Jul (RZD).

At least 4 ad. Bald Eagles were seen in Algonquin during the period, which suggests that they may breed in the park in the near future (RT). A pair nested in Komoka, *Middlesex*, the first to nest in the county in nearly 30 years (DW, PR, AWh). A flock of 5 Red-shouldered Hawks 20 Jun at Cedar Lake in Algonquin was a rare sight (MRu). A pair of Broad-winged Hawks, an unusual breeding species for s. Ontario, successfully raised young near Newbury, *Middlesex* (PR, RoS, DMa). An ad. Golden Eagle flew over London, *Middlesex*, 4 Jun and was probably a late migrant (BL). Peregrine Falcons continue to breed successfully both in urban areas and elsewhere. Urban nesting birds successfuly raised three young each in Etobicoke, *Toronto* (MG *fide* www.peregrine-foundation.ca), Hamilton (MS), London, *Middlesex*, (PR), Ottawa (MG *fide* www.peregrine-foundation.ca) and downtown Toronto (MG *fide* www.peregrine-foundation.ca). A pair bred on cliffs of the Bruce Peninsula, *Grey-Bruce*, for the first time in almost 50 years (*fide* JJ). Another pair chose the chimney of an abandoned smelter in Coniston, *Sudbury*, to raise 2 young (CBl, JL) and, unusual for the period, a single bird appeared to be scouting for a nest in an abandoned open pit mine near Atikokan, *Rainy River*, 3 Jul (DE).

Several sightings of Gray Partridge have been reported during the season in and near Woodstock, *Oxford*, apparently a newly populated area (*fide* JMH). Northern Bobwhite appeared to repopulate some areas where they were previously found in and near London, *Middlesex* (BVB *fide* PR). Only rarely seen, King Rails were at Big Creek Marsh, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, in early Jul and near the L.P.B.O. headquarters through Jul (JDM et al.). Sandhill Cranes were confirmed breeding when 2 adults and 2 young were at a farm near Rice Lake, *Peterborough*, 14 Jun (BS). Elsewhere in *Peterborough* there were at least four locations where breeding was suspected (DCS). A single bird flying over Fifty Pt. C.A., *Niagara*, 14 Jun was unusual for the location and date (RZD). A nesting pair of Piping Plovers and a single

A Canvasback nest with nine eggs at Tommy Thompson Park near Toronto 11 Jun 2000; see cover and report for details of this first nesting record for Ontario. *Photograph by Mark Peck.*

adult were at Windy Pt., *Rainy River*, 4 Jul (DE); an unmated male maintained a territory near the tip of Long Pt., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, for all of Jun and until 15 Jul (ME, et al.). Single American Avocets were at Mission I., *Thunder Bay*, 17 Jun (GW) and near the Pinery P.P., *Lambton*, 30 Jul (AR, AWi *fide* ONTBIRDS). At the Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto*, there were 3 Ruddy Turnstones 12 Jun (GCo) and a late one 18 Jun (RS). A male **Ruff** 28–31 Jul at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, was a welcome sight (PH, TH, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH WRENS

Several unusual gulls were recorded during the period. An ad. Laughing Gull was at the Blenheim Landfill, *Kent*, 10–13 Jul (KJB) and another was at the Tip of Long Pt., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 5 Jun (PT). An astonishing 1000+ Franklin's Gulls appeared suddenly at Windy Pt., *Rainy River*, 12 Jun (DE). An ad. Black-headed Gull in breeding plumage was at Cobourg, *Northumberland*, 18 Jun (CEG, MB). The **Heermann's Gull** discovered in Toronto Harbour on 14 Nov 1999 and described in the Fall 1999 report (MB) has remained in the area and is still present at this writing (CSAM, JI). A most surprising second-alternate Iceland Gull was at the Burlington Ship Canal, *Hamilton-Wentorth/Haldimand-Norfolk*, 13 Jun (RZD). Early fall migrants were 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Wheatley Harbour, *Chatham-Kent*, 16 Jul (AW), singles at Selkirk P.P., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 3 & 14 Jul (JBM), and a single first-summer bird at Erieau, *Kent*, 29 Jul (KJB). During June a new colony of Black Terns was discovered on the Albany River, *Thunder Bay*, near the n. edge of their range (SBr). Great Gray Owls were seen at Hansen Lake near Nipigon, *Thunder Bay*, 2 Jun (RHa), w. of Upsala, *Thunder Bay*, 5 Jun (PRa), and near Raith on Hwy. 17, *Thunder Bay*, 14 Jun (anon *fide* TA). In late Jul a young Northern Saw-whet Owl was found in London, an unusual nesting species for *Middlesex* and not previously recorded from London (PR). A Chuck-will's-widow was calling at the Tip of Long Pt., *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 7 Jun (ME). A rare Rufous Hummingbird was at a feeder near Red Rock, *Thunder Bay*, 31 Jul (T&LG). A somewhat elusive **Lewis's Woodpecker** visited a feeder at Hilton n. of Brighton, *Northumberland*, from before 13 Jun until at least 18 Jun (CEG, BSt). Although Red-headed Woodpeckers seem to be undergoing a steep decline, it is encouraging to be able to report sightings of a single bird from the Mitchell S.T.P, *Perth*, 2 Jul (DB), 2 birds from Cobourg, *Northumberland*, during the period (CEG), a nesting pair with young at Cottesloe, *Peterborough*, (DCS), and 3 birds (2 adults, 1 immature) at Pinery P.P., *Lambton*, 4 Jul (AR).

An Acadian Flycatcher was banded at L.P.B.O. 2 Jun (KW). Two nests and 3 territorial males found in Backus Woods, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, (JDM), and 4 nests found in Skunk's Misery near Newbury, *Middlesex*, suggest a likely population increase (PR, DMa, RoS). Three Willow Flycatchers at Burwash, *Sudbury*, 6 Jun (m.ob.) and one at Gore Bay, *Manitoulin*, 3 Jun (CB) were unusually far n. Early fall migrants at Pelee were 3 Least Flycatchers 11 Jul (AW, HON). A Western Kingbird 1 km n. of Rainy River, *Rainy River*, 12 Jul was the only record received for the province (DE). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Manitowaning, *Manitoulin*, 28 Jul attracted much attention (CV). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes fledged 6 young in Howland Township, *Manitoulin*, (CB et al.), while one at Wellburn, *Perth*, 8 Jul was well out of its range (EB). A Swainson's Thrush at Pelee 7 Jun was probably an early fall migrant (AW). *Middlesex* recorded Sedge Wrens, unusual nesters in the county; 2 were at Harrietsville 2 Jun (DMa), 2 were near Strathroy 17 Jun (PR, SuR) and 2 were w. of Mt. Brydges 2 Jul (PR).

MIMIDS THROUGH FINCHES

The sighting of a Gray Catbird in Thunder Bay City 8 Jun was a rare occurrence (TA). The increasing numbers of Northern Mockingbirds in southern Ontario are resulting in a spread farther n. In mid-Jun a pair was e. of Echo Bay, *Algoma*, and another pair near the Bar River, *Algoma*, (BKn). The nest of a Mountain Bluebird paired with an Eastern Bluebird at Hilton n. of Brighton, *Northumberland* failed to produce offspring (CEG). An active Northern Parula nest was reported from the East Beach on Lake of Two Rivers, *Algonquin*, 19 Jul (anon *fide* DT, RT). If confirmed this would be only the 2nd or 3rd nest found in Ontario, although the species is widespread in Algonquin and surrounding areas (RT). A singing male Cape May Warbler e. of Purple Woods, *Durham*, 21 Jun (DBa), and a male Palm Warbler in s. *Bruce* 23 Jun (BAM) were clearly out-of-range. A late Blackpoll Warbler was at Pelee 15 Jun (AW). Three nesting pairs of Prothonotary Warblers and one unmated bird were in the L.P.B.O. area during the period (JDM); a single was at Pelee I., *Essex*, 11 Jun (DWa). A singing male Connecticut Warbler at Howland, *Manitoulin* 23 Jun was s. of its range (CB). Several rare vagrant Kentucky Warblers were reported. One territorial male was at Bronte Creek, *Halton*, at least until 7 Jun (anon *fide* HC). Another was at the Leslie Street Spit, *Toronto* 3–4 Jun (AJ, CSAM, *fide* ONTBIRDS). Over 60 pairs of Hooded Warblers, an unusually large number, were in the area of L.P.B.O. during the season (BMW, MEG, JDM); several were found at Skunk's Misery near Newbury, *Middlesex*, (DMa, PR, RoS). A territorial male was at Bronte Creek P.P., *Halton*, 4 Jun–31 Jul (BK, FU), and a male was at a new site in Tillsonburg, *Oxford*, 25 Jun (JMH, MHo). Single Yellow-breasted Chats, considered provincially rare, were at Aldershot, *Halton*, 7 Jun (RZD), at Clappison Corners, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 30 Jun (anon, *fide* HC), and near Strathroy, *Middlesex*, 17 Jun (PR, SuR).

A territorial male Summer Tanager at Wheatley, *Kent*, was present from May and seen sporadically to 12 Jul (THi); another was n. of Tilden Woods, *Pelee*, 17 Jun (FU). During June, 57 singing Clay-colored Sparrows were detected during a survey near Chelmsford, *Sudbury*, (JNi). A territorial male **Lark Sparrow** was at the DeLaurier Trail, *Pelee*, 2–4 Jun (AW et al.). Three reports of the endangered Henslow's Sparrow are encouraging. Two territorial males were at Bronte P.P., *Halton*, in early Jun (GE, MCr), one was at Regional Road 9 one-half mi n. of Hagersville, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, 3 Jul (JBM, WS), and one was singing at Glen Major, *Durham*, 10 Jul (FB). At least 3 pairs of Le Conte's Sparrows were in the Burwash, *Manitoulin*, area in Jun (m.ob.), 3 individuals were at Azilda, *Manitoulin*, in Jun (JNi), and one was at Bidwell, *Manitoulin*, 22 Jun (CB). An unusual irruption of Dickcissels occurred in sw. Ontario during the period. Up to 30 ad. birds were present in five colonies in fields near Blenheim, *Chatham-Kent*, from 18 Jun–27 Jul (JTB et al.). Although breeding appeared to have been successful, no fledged young were found (JTB). Four birds were at Fifty Pt. C.A., *Niagara*, from 26 Jun on (BMk, SMk), and one territorial male was se. of Hagersville, *Haldimand-Norfolk*, from 23 Jun on (RC). Dickcissels were also at Holt Line, South Lambton, *Lambton*, (BAM) 31 Jul. For unknown reasons Western Meadowlarks have become scarce this summer in nw. Ontario (DE). A single bird was at Clappison's Corners, *Hamilton-Wentworth*, 9 Jun–1 Jul (BSm, m.ob.), another was at the Blenheim S.T.P., *Kent*, during the last week of July, and another was at Killaly Rd. and Highbury, London, *Middlesex*, (KG). Eight Orchard Orioles were

present 1–17 Jun (m.ob.) in the L.P.B.O. area. In Toronto 1 imm. bird was at Lambton Park 19 Jun (BY) and a singing ad. male was at High Park 21 Jun (BY). A pair successfully raised young at a residence near Presqu'ile (FH, TH). There were 2 Orchard Orioles near Strathroy, *Middlesex*, one 17 Jun and another in late Jul (PR, DMa, RoS). Two family groups were at Woodstock, *Oxford*, 27 Jun (JMH). A pair of House Finches, still scarce in the n., visited a feeder in Thunder Bay 12 Jul (BM). Several Common Redpolls were late at Slate Falls, *Thunder Bay*, 7 Jun (DTr).

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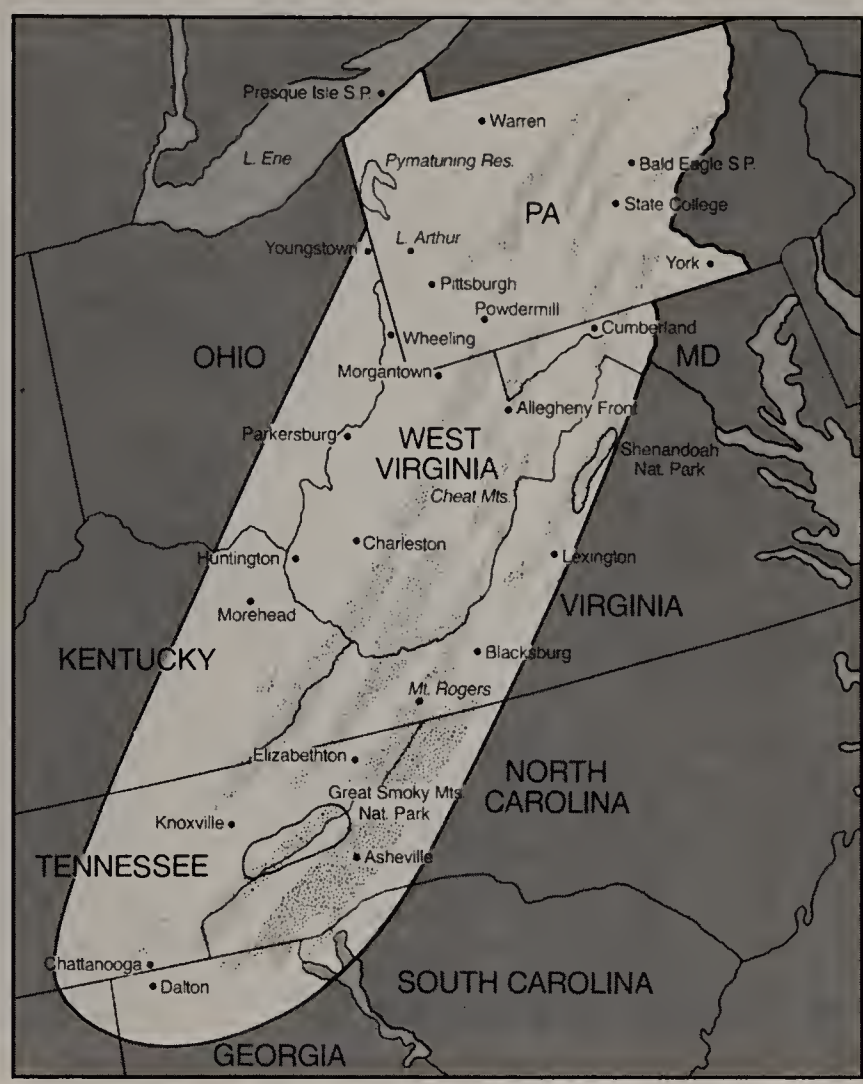

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The drought conditions that had prevailed over much of the Region during the past few seasons finally broke, providing the area with a cooler and wetter summer than normal. High water levels at most lakes and wetlands concentrated migrating shorebirds at a few managed impoundments where water levels had been drawn down. Among passerines, nesting productivity generally seemed high, although little quantitative data were available for most species. In some agricultural areas, frequent summer showers may have indirectly benefited the nesting success of grassland species due to the resulting delays in cutting the first hay crops. Following a trend observed over at least the past two decades, many species having more northerly distributions, including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, as well as wood-warblers such as Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian, were again found nesting farther south and at lower elevations than usual within the Region.

Abbreviations: Big South Fork (Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, KY/TN); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, *Westmoreland*, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

There were only two reports of summering, non-breeding Common Loons in the Region, one at Nickajack L., *Marion*, TN, 25 Jun (CM), and another at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, 16 Jul (JSt). Pied-billed Grebes were unusually widespread within traditional nesting areas of ne. Ohio and nw. Pennsylvania (v.o.); singles were at two sites along the Watauga R., TN, 16 Jul (RK), and one was on the Ohio R. at Williamstown, WV, 5 Jul (MS, AP, GH). A Horned Grebe was a rare out-of-season find at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA, 8 Jun (BH). A newly discovered colony of Double-

A Brown-headed Nuthatch at its nest hole at Kingston, *Roane*, Tennessee, 11 May 2000 was at the northern extreme of the species' breeding range in the Appalachian region. *Photograph by Frank Renfrow.*

crested Cormorants at Rankin Bottoms, *Coke*, TN, contained six nests with young 10 Jul (RK); at least 9 summered at Pymatuning L., PA (RFL), and 2 late migrants were at Somerset L., *Somerset*, PA, 6 Jun (J&RP).

Overall, the number of nesting Great Blue Herons continued to increase in the north, but a large colony at Lordstown, OH, dropped from 394 nests in 1999 to 321 this summer (CB). Among the season's highlights was a **Great White Heron** that frequented a golf course near Brevard, NC, 10 Jul+ (ph. TJ, NS, m.ob.). Many observers commented on the early arrival and good numbers of Great Egrets this summer, from a high of 15 at Rankin Bottoms, TN, 10 Jul (RK) to 5 in the north near Allegheny Res., *Warren*, PA, 14 Jul (NR, CP). An imm. Little Blue Heron was a good find near Hendersonville, NC, 25–26 Jul (WF), and 2 Tricolored Herons frequented P.I.S.P. through 10 Jun (BG). A new heron colony at Rankin Bottoms contained 5 Cattle Egret and over 25 Black-crowned Night-Heron nests (RK). Two ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Chickamauga L., TN, 13 Jun (KC), the season's only report. White Ibises invaded the southern part of the Region early and in good numbers. In Tennessee an immature had appeared in *Hamilton* by 9 Jun (LW), and 9 immatures were in *Carter* 21–24 Jun (HPL, m.ob.); in the French Broad R. Valley, *Henderson*, NC, up to 30 were found 11 Jun–9 Jul (WF, MW). Black Vultures continued to expand their range to the northwest. One at Tarentum, *Allegheny*, PA, 25 Jun may have been the same bird found six miles away in Buffalo Township, *Butler*, 16 Jul (PH, DH), and one over Pleasant Valley, *Garrett*, MD, was a rare sighting (FP).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Out-of-season duck sightings included single Gadwalls at Swoope, *Augusta*, VA, 3 Jun (KG) and P.I.S.P. 3 Jul (JM), a male American Wigeon at Kingsport, TN, 16 Jul (*fide* RK), a Canvasback at Northeast, PA, 27–28 Jun (*fide* JM), and 2 Ring-necked Ducks 14 Jun at Colver, *Cambria*, PA (JSa). A female Hooded Merganser summered on a pond in Shady Valley, TN (HPL), while breeding birds were widely reported across n. Pennsylvania (v.ob.). Ten Ruddy Ducks, including a female with 5 young, were at Pymatuning L., PA, 4 Jun (RFL), and 4 non-breeding birds were at Prince Gallitzin S.P., PA, 8 Jun (BH).

An imm. Swallow-tailed Kite spotted in *Sequatchie*, TN, 28 Jul was joined by an adult on the 29th and by one of unknown age on the 30th (BJ, v.ob.). A Mississippi Kite in *Bradley*, TN, 21 Jun was a rare find for that area (KC, BJ). Bald Eagle populations continued to increase. There were 44 active nest sites in w. Pennsylvania; the 18 successful sites produced 31 young (DB). Northern Harriers were widely reported and may be slowly recovering from population losses over recent decades. A nest with 5 chicks was found in an abandoned strip mine at Bullion, *Venango*, PA, 22 Jun (JSt); a female in *Washington*, TN, on the 11th represented a first July record there (HPL), and one at Swoope, VA, 30 Jul was an exceptional find (YL). Contributors from

Pennsylvania to Virginia commented on a scarcity of Broad-winged Hawks.

Northern Bobwhites may be increasing locally—5 were heard near Martinsburg 7 Jun and one was at Elk Garden, WV, on the 9th (PL); another was near Swallow Falls, MD, 9 Jul (*fide* FP). Common Moorhens were common in the Pymatuning L. area, where 10 were seen at Hartstown 30 Jun (MB), and a pair with newly hatched young was at Shenango W.A, *Trumbull*, OH, 24 Jul (D&JH). On 18 Jun 2 American Coots were at Kingsport, TN, where they are not known to breed (RK). A locally nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes with this year's young was regularly seen in *Mercer/Lawrence*, PA, in Jul (v.ob., *fide* PH), and one was at Dunning Creek, *Bedford*, PA, 2 Jun (TD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Small numbers of Semipalmated Plovers appeared at many localities in the Appalachians during the last week of July, including 5 at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, on the 24th (WF) and 4 at Mosquito L., OH, 30 Jul (D&JH). An American Avocet at Sandy Cr. Marsh, *Wood*, WV, 18 Jul (JBe, JE) represented one of few state records. Rare in the Region away from L. Erie, 4 Sanderlings were at Mosquito L. 30 Jul (D&JH), and one was near Polk, PA, 24–28 Jul (GE, m.ob.). A Western Sandpiper was at Polk, 15 Jul (JSt), while 5 Western and 35 Least Sandpipers were at Hooper Lane, 25 Jul (WF, BO). A spring White-rumped Sandpiper was somewhat late at P.I.S.P. 3 Jun (MF), while an early Stilt Sandpiper had arrived at Pymatuning L. by 22 Jul (NT). An out-of-season Common Snipe was at French Broad R. Valley, NC, 29 Jun (WF), with another in *Bledsoe*, TN, 30 Jul (BJ).

Few unusual gull species strayed into the area, although a Laughing Gull was at P.I.S.P. 29 Jun (JF, JH). Several Herring Gulls fledged in mid-Jul from nests at a recently established colony along the Allegheny R. at Pittsburgh (PB), and in Erie some 20 nests produced young— the first successful nestings ever recorded there (JM). The Erie colony's future (including hundreds of nesting Ring-billed Gulls), however, is in doubt, as the property owner has acquired permits to destroy the colony as a health hazard (*fide* JM). A scattering of tern records away from L. Erie included a Caspian at Pymatuning L. 12 Jun (DTr) and one at Bullion, PA, 24 Jun (JSt). A late Common Tern was at Somerset L. 6 Jun (J&RP); a Forster's Tern was at Prince Gallitzin S.P., 7 Jun (JS), and 2 were at Yellow-creek S.P., PA, 27 Jun (MH, JSa). Although numbers were critically low, a few Black Terns were found nesting in the Pymatuning region, and one or 2 were at S. Holston L., TN, 29–30 Jul (HPL).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRUSHES

In several areas of heavy Gypsy Moth outbreaks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common; 75 were recorded on three BBS routes in Rothrock S.F., *Huntingdon*, PA, where in the past 5 to 10 birds had been more usual (GG). Four young Barn Owls were seen at a nest site at Johnson City, TN, 17 Jun (LM), and nestlings were again found in a silo in nw. *Huntingdon*, PA, that had been unused for several years (GG). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was located at Big South Fork, TN, 7 Jun (SS). In w. Pennsylvania saw-whets were more widely reported than usual, in part due to an organized survey effort (Project Toot Route): 3 were at Marion Center, *Indiana*, 7 Jun (CG), and others were located at Mt. Davis and Allegheny Mt, *Somerset* (J&RP) and *Venango* and *Mercer* (*fide* DG). In the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA, Whip-poor-wills were considered locally extirpated (DD), but they were in average numbers in ne. TN (RK) and doing well in *Somerset*, PA (J&RP); in addition, many were recorded in the mountains of Pennsylvania during Project Toot Route surveys (*fide* DG). Red-headed Woodpeckers continued to hold their own and were possibly increasing in ne. Ohio and w. Pennsylvania (v.ob.), and were found at eight sites s. of Oakland, MD (FP). Discovery of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest at Slippery Rock, PA, represented the 2nd *Butler* breeding record (GW); a pair nested near Oakland, MD (FP); another pair was at Paddy's Knob on the Virgina/West Virginia border 8 Jun (PL, KH), and a juvenile was at Buck Run, *Henderson*, VA, 23 Jul (JBa).

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Worthington, *Armstrong*, PA, 20 Jun was very late (JF), and 3 Acadian Flycatchers 17 Jul at Irvine, *Warren*, PA, were unusual so far north (*fide* TG). Toward the south, several Alder Flycatchers were again found at Roan Mt., TN (RK, AT), and 2 territorial birds at South R. Preserve 4 Jun–11 Jul were firsts for *Augusta*, VA (*fide* YL). A nest of Willow Flycatchers at French Broad R. Valley represented the first documented breeding for *Henderson*, NC (WF). Great Crested Flycatchers continued their decline across much of w. Pennsylvania (RCL, v.ob.), and in *Shenandoah*, VA (DD). **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** continued their recent invasion of e. Tennessee: an early June nesting attempt in *Polk* apparently failed (JW, m.ob.), but another pair in *Bledsoe* successfully nested, fledging at least one young (*fide* KC). In Pennsylvania, Common Ravens continued to extend their range well w. of the mountains; a family group of 5 was near Clarksville, *Greene*, 22 Jun (RB), and 1–2 were at Van, *Venango*, 4 Jun–8 Jul (JSt).

Tree Swallow populations continued to increase in ne. Tennessee (RK), while in North Carolina a nest with young was found in the French Broad R. Valley (WF). On 19 Jul a flock of 1500 Tree Swallows was staging for migration at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA (RCL). About 150 pairs of Bank Swallows nested in a gravel pit at Conneaut L., PA, in June (RFL); a total of 600 nests were under observation at three sites in *Venango*, PA (JSt.), as were several nests in *Wood*, WV (JE). Following the breeding season, a large flock of Bank Swallows gathered at Pymatuning L. near Linesville, peaking at 3000 birds 19 Jul (RCL). Breeding Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in unprecedented numbers in the southern part of the Region, including 8 in nw. *Henderson*, VA, 23 Jul (JBa); a few at Daniel Boone N.F., *Wolfe*, KY, 5 Jun (FR), and several pairs in mid-Jun at both Sumter N.F., *Oconee*, SC, and the Chatooga Wild and Scenic River Area, GA/SC (FR). Eight Brown-headed Nuthatches were listed at the Kingston Power Plant, *Roane*, TN, 10 Jun, where this northerly population may be at risk due to extensive cutting of pines at the site (FR). At the w. edge of their breeding range, Brown Creepers were found at Hocking Hills, OH, 3 Jul (FR), and 2 were heard singing in the south at Sumter N.F., SC, 13 Jun (FR). The only Sedge Wren report came from Erie N.W.R., *Crawford*, PA, 8 Jul (RFL). In e. TN up to 6 Hermit Thrushes were on Roan Mt. (AT, RK), and one was on Unaka Mt. in mid-Jun (AT); up to 10 were reported, near their southern breeding limit, from two mountain peaks in Great Smoky Mountains N.P. (AW, DT). Wood Thrush numbers were believed to be up over the past few years at P.N.R. and surrounding areas (RM, RCL) and also at Sayre, *Bradford*, PA (RES).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

In the north, Blue-winged Warbler populations seemed high (v.ob.); elsewhere one was reported from ne. Tennessee, where they are rare in summer (RK). Up to 14 Golden-winged Warblers were seen in the

Roan Mt., TN, area (AT). A Brewster's Warbler was at Roan Mt. (*fide* RK), and one was banded at P.N.R. 9 Jun (RCL). The first Tennessee breeding record for Magnolia Warbler was established 27 Jun when an adult and 2 fledglings were observed on Unaka Mt (AT); a single bird was at Roan Mt. 28 Jun (AT). Single Yellow-rumped Warblers were rare finds at Mt. LeConte (AW) and Roan Mt. (AT) in mid-Jun. Yellow-throated Warblers continued to expand their breeding range northward, and one was seen near Irvine, PA, 17 Jul (*fide* TG). Late migrant Blackpoll Warblers were listed at Waynesboro, VA, 1–4 Jun (*fide* YL) and Steyer, *Garrett*, MD, 3 Jun (FP). In the Laurel Highlands of w. Pennsylvania, Cerulean Warbler populations were high (RM). An eight-year census at Frozen Head S.P., TN, however, indicated half the number of Ceruleans compared to 1994 (53 vs. 106), and declines were apparent on BBS routes in *Whitley* and *McCrearly*, KY (SS). In June a Swainson's Warbler was reported from *Whitley*, KY, and 6 birds were reported from four sites in Big South Fork, TN (SS); other Swainson's were 2 at Red R. Gorge, KY, 5 Jun (FR), one 15 Jun in *Oconee*, SC (FR), and one at Cove L. S.P., TN, 17 Jun (FR). A record-early fall Northern Waterthrush was at Signal Mt., *Hamilton*, TN, 28 Jul (JSL). In the Laurel Highlands, nesting success for Louisiana Waterthrush was generally high, with about 60% of 45 monitored nests and >80% of pairs on ten streams successful at fledging young; this summer, the first waterthrush nest out of some 150 monitored in the last five years produced a cowbird fledgling (RM). Mourning Warblers were common in their n. Pennsylvania range (RFL, RCL), and a male was at Table Rock, *Garrett*, MD, 25 Jun (JC). In *Greene*, PA, both Kentucky and Hooded Warblers were in their best numbers ever on BBS routes (RB). A late spring Wilson's Warbler was found in Pittsburgh 7 Jun (BH).

Although breeding was not confirmed, a Clay-colored Sparrow was in nw. *Butler*, PA, 2 Jun (GW), and on 20 Jun one was at Imperial, *Allegheny*, PA (CT), with another 2 at Florence, *Washington*, PA (CT). Field Sparrows could not be found in the upper Cedar Cr. Valley, *Shenandoah*, VA (DD), this summer, and were in low numbers in *Greene*, PA (RB), and at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). Vesper Sparrows have been increasingly difficult to find in most of the Region, and none could be located in *Venango*, PA, during the breeding season (JSt). A **Lark Sparrow** was seen 3 Jul in a recently tilled field in the French Broad R. Valley, NC, two miles from where one was seen in late Apr (WF). At least 15 Savannah Sparrows were found in two counties of ne. Tennessee, near the southern limit of their Appalachian breeding range (RK). Henslow's Sparrows were doing well in nw. Pennsylvania: with "lots" of birds in *Clarion* (DB), 35 singing males from three locations in *Venango* (JSt), and reports of smaller numbers from *Mercer* (NT) and *Fayette* (MM). Blue Grosbeaks were reported in good numbers throughout the period in *Henderson*, NC (WF). Dickcissels appeared in their best numbers since the summer of 1988; there were 18 reports from *Augusta*, VA, including 10 at Swoope (YL), 17 from w. Pennsylvania (PH, JSt, v.ob.), 2 in *Henderson*, NC (MW), and one in *Washington*, TN (RK). Scattered flocks of Red Crossbills appeared in the south: 5 at Gaudineer Knob, *Pocahontas*, WV, 8 Jun (PL); 25–30 at Balsam Gap, *Buncombe*, NC, 4 Jun (WF, BO, RS); in Tennessee 80+ were on Roan Mt. 16 Jun (RK) and 9 were on Unaka Mt. (RK). A few Pine Siskins, in breeding condition, were banded at P.N.R. in Jun (RCL, RM), and one or 2 frequented Allegheny Mt., *Somerset*, PA, all season (J&RP); up to 16 were seen on Roan Mt. during the period (RK).

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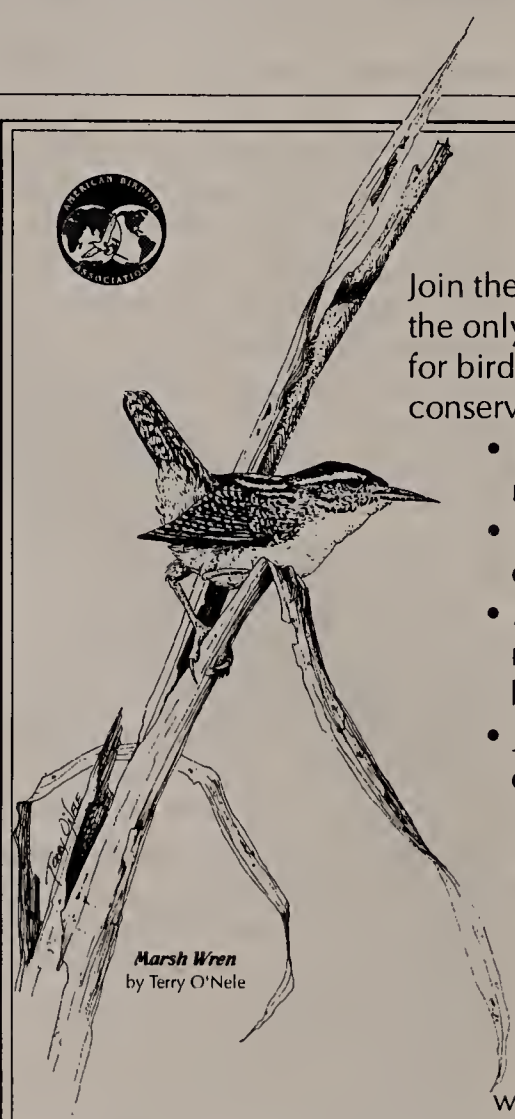
Marsh Wren
by Terry O'Nele

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It was a cool wet summer in most of the region. The spring migration overlapped very little with the early part of the season, although there were some surprisingly late migrants. Shorebird movement toward the end of the season was very good in both Minnesota and Michigan. Minnesota had the most significant breeding record with a first nesting of Great-tailed Grackle, while Michigan mustered the best rarity with a Broad-billed Hummingbird.

Abbreviations: Duluth (Duluth, *St. Louis*, MN); MBRC (Michigan Bird Records Committee); MORC (Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee); M.W.S. (Muskegon Wastewater System, *Muskegon*, MI); P.M. (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, *Monroe*, MI); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, *Chippewa*, MI).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Minnesota had a record count of 30 Red-throated Loons on 31 May in Duluth, 15 of which lingered to the late date of 8 Jun (KE, MH). Also at that location was an alternate-plumaged **Pacific Loon** 29 May–3 Jun (KE, et al.). In Michigan 4 Red-necked Grebes 24 Jul in Copper Harbor, *Keewenaw* (JY) were slightly early for fall migration. Unusually far east in Minnesota were an Eared Grebe 3–7 Jun in Duluth (WM, PS) and 2 at the Lewiston Sewage Ponds, *Winona* (CMa). Michigan also had unusual Eared Grebe sightings, with singles 5–17 Jun at the Calumet Sewage Ponds, *Houghton* (LB, RH, LM) and 4–7 Jun at Southfield, *Oakland*; more typical were the 3 on 1–11 Jun at MWS (SM, JPo, GW). Wisconsin had 3 summer sightings of Eared Grebes, including ones 1–5 Jun at Milwaukee (DG, KD, MK), 1–6 Jun in *Eau Claire* (JP) and 17 Jun at Rush Lake, *Winnebago* (TZ). Uncommon in Wisconsin were 2 Western Grebes 1 Jul on Lake Michigan, *Sheboygan* (TB, IB) while one from 30 Jul+ on Duck Lake, *Grand Traverse* (EE, LE, SP, JT) was very rare for Michigan. A record number of Clark's Grebes was recorded this summer in Minnesota, including individuals that bred with Western Grebes at Thielke L. *Big Stone* 15 Jun–7 Jul (PC, et al.) and 24 Jun–3 Jul at Swan L., *Nicollet* (CMa, et al.), which produced 3 hybrid young. Also reported were Clark's Grebes 10–30 Jul at Section L., *Lyon* (CMa, et al.), 19–28 Jun at Swan L., *Sibley* (CMa), and on 23 Jul at L. Osakis, *Douglas* (KE).

American White Pelicans continue to be more common in the eastern portions of the region. They bred in Wisconsin at the Horicon Marsh and in Green Bay, while in Michigan one was seen 8 Jul+ at P.M. Minnesota reported Snowy Egrets 6–11 Jun at Farquhar L. *Dakota* (RS, JS) and 17 May–21 Jun at L. Alice, *Otter Tail* (SMi, DM). Michigan had a Snowy Egret 3 Jun–15 Jul at P.M. (PC, AB, WP). Wisconsin reported several Snowy Egrets through the summer at Green Bay, Oshkosh (TZ), and singles 8–15 Jun in Milwaukee (DG, MK) and 10 Jun at Kenosha (TWo). Also in Wisconsin, an adult Little Blue Heron was present 2–6 Jun in *Pierce* (PR). An adult Tricolored Heron was seen in Michigan 6 Jun+ at Nayanquing Pt., *Bay*, while another was seen in Wisconsin at Green Bay on Jun 16 (JR). A **Tricolored Heron** 29 May–4 Jun in Hastings, *Dakota* (TT, et al.) was the 13th for Minnesota. Cattle Egrets remained scarce this summer in Michigan with the only report being one on 19 Jun at P.M. (WP). Cattle Egrets probably nested in Wisconsin at Oshkosh, while individuals were seen at Green Bay and Manitowoc. Minnesota had reports of Cattle Egrets from 5 counties, with flocks up to 6 individuals. A high total in Michigan was the 148 Black-crowned Night-Heron reported on 17 Jul at P.M. (AB). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are declining in Minnesota; this year individuals were seen 8–15 Jun at Wood L. NC, *Hennepin* (BSe et al.) and 17–18 Jun at L. Alice, *Otter Tail* (PS, mob). In Michigan a maximum of 3 was seen 1–12 Jul at P.M., while one on 14 Jul was a first record for the M.W.S. (MM); all are pending MBRC review. Wisconsin reported a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at the heron rookery in Oshkosh through 30 Jun (TZ). In Minnesota 2 fly-by *Plegadis* ibises were reported 18 Jun in *Becker* (PS).

WATERFOWL

Two Snow Geese lingered in Minnesota in *Marshall* as did individuals in *Traverse* and *Meeker*. Remarkably, the Minnesota D.N.R. estimated the resident Canada Goose population at 295,000, higher than the total for Mallards, which themselves were 55% above their long-term average. Up to 2 Tundra Swans lingered in Michigan at P.M. through the period, while Wisconsin had summering birds in Green Bay, *Menasha/Neenah*, and one 18–23 Jun at Mead W.A. (DB). Reports of Trumpeter Swans from 16 counties in Minnesota resulted in it being reclassified as regular in that state. For the second consecutive season in Michigan, American Wigeon was confirmed breeding in *Houghton* (LB). Unusually far south in Minnesota was an American Black Duck at Middle L., *Nicollet*, 20–25 Jun (CMa, KE). Rare in Michigan was confirmation of breeding for Northern Shoveler in *Houghton* (LB). A White-cheeked Pintail 24 Jun at P.M. (AB, PC) would provide a first state record for Michigan if accepted by the MBRC; natural occurence will certainly be a point of contention.

Several Canvasbacks summered at Port Washington (TU, JF), and one was seen on 22 Jun in *Bayfield* (DV), both in Wisconsin, while in Michigan a maximum of 6 summered at P.M. (AB), as did one at M.W.S. Unusually far south in Michigan were single Ring-necked Ducks 15 Jul at P.M. (AB, BH, KO) and 19 Jun at Maple River S.G.A., *Gratiot* (JB). Greater and Lesser Scaups lingered into July and oversummered in several locations in Michigan and Wisconsin. Michigan had a number of unusual summer Bufflehead reports, including a male 3–6 Jun and 22–29 Jul at P.M., a female 14 Jun+ in Olivet, *Eaton*, and a male on 10 Jun at Nayanquing Pt., *Bay* (MHu, KO, GR). Wisconsin reported a Bufflehead 1–2 Jun in *Eau Claire* (JP). The number of summering Ruddy Ducks in Michigan continues to increase; they were seen in 11 Lower Peninsula and 2 Upper Peninsula counties.

HAWKS THROUGH GULLS

An Osprey pair in *Allegan* (RSc) provided the first breeding record for that county and one of the southernmost breeding records in Michigan. Ten Rough-legged Hawks 18 Jun at Buena Vista Marsh, *Portage* (MB) and singles 24 Jul at Thunder Lake Marsh, *Oneida* (BF, KF) and 20–21 Jul in *Milwaukee* (JSt) provided rare summer reports in Wisconsin. Well s. of normal in Michigan was a Merlin 23 Jul at the M.W.S. (MM). South of their normal breeding range in Minnesota were nesting Merlins in *Cass* (MN) and *Hennepin* (The Raptor Center), while a breeding pair in *Kittson* were of the Richardson's race (PS), the third consecutive year this race has bred in the northwestern portion of the state. A female Wild Turkey in Michigan's Upper Peninsula 26 Jun represented a first county record in *Baraga* and further evidence of the northward expansion of this species. Yellow Rails were scarce in Wisconsin this summer, with the only report coming from Crex Meadows W.A. In Minnesota Common Moorhen is becoming increasingly scarce; this season the only reports came from *Dakota* and *Wabasha*.

There were a number of reports of lingering shorebirds from the spring migration as well as impressive totals of early fall migrants; unfortunately space limitations preclude listing many of them. Readers are urged to consult each state's regional journals for more details. In Michigan several Black-bellied Plovers oversummered at P.M. An American Golden-Plover in Wisconsin on 23 Jun at Sheboygan (MP) may have been a very late spring migrant or a very early fall arrival. Minnesota reported 4 late spring American Golden-Plovers 19 Jun and 4 early fall birds on 1 Jul, both in *Big Stone* (KB). Encouraging in Michigan were reports of 30 Piping Plover nests, including the first nest on the Lake Huron shoreline in 15 years. Minnesota had 5 pairs of Piping Plovers in *Lake of the Woods*. In Wisconsin 41 American Avocets 1 Jul at Horicon N.W.R. (TWo) provided an unprecedented summer total. Also impressive were 2055 Lesser Yellowlegs reported at P.M. 29 Jul (AB) in Michigan. Upland Sandpipers were reported in the highest numbers since 1988 in Minnesota. A **Baird's Sandpiper** 1–2 Jun at WPBO (LD) was only the second documented spring record in Michigan. A Stilt Sandpiper 26 Jun was record-early in Minnesota, while equally noteworthy was the peak of 272 31 Jul, both in *Big Stone* (KB). An adult male **Ruff** was found at P.M. 30 Jun (WP); the record is pending MBRC review.

In Michigan an ad. Laughing Gull was seen 3–4 Jun at New Buffalo, *Berrien* (PC, JG), and a first-summer was seen 15 Jun at W.P.B.O. (LD). Wisconsin had a Laughing Gull 19 Jun at Ashland (RB, DV) and another 23 Jun+ at Sheboygan (MP, et al.). In Minnesota there were more than 4000 Franklin's Gulls recorded 29 Jun on Pine and Curry Islands, *Lake of the Woods* (BBe), while Wisconsin had reports of one 2 Jun at Milwaukee (MK), 5 on 2 Jun in *Chippewa* (JP), one 12 Jun in *Door* (MR), and one 17 Jun at Green Bay (JR). Also in Wisconsin were a maximum of 4 Little Gulls in Sheboygan 23 Jun+ and one 4 Jun at Manitowoc (AH). A third-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull 2 Jun at Crookston Sewage Lagoons, *Polk* (PPr) would be a first Minnesota summer record if accepted by the MORC. In Michigan a first-summer bird was seen in *Berrien* 3 Jul (PC, JG). A Glaucous Gull lingered to 2 Jun at Sheboygan (DBr, MBr) in Wisconsin. In Minnesota an immature Great Black-backed Gull on 5 Jun in Duluth (PS) would be a first summer record in that state. An ad. **Arctic Tern** 22 Jul at P.M. (AB, BM) was the first in Michigan in several years; the record is pending MBRC review.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A **White-winged Dove** photographed at a feeder in Plover, *Portage*, remained 10–16 Jun (KH) and provided Wisconsin its first fully documented record. Also in Wisconsin the 2-3 **Eurasian Collared-Doves** remained in *Oconotos* through July; in Minnesota they were reported to be present at Leota, *Nobles* (ND). A Northern Saw-whet Owl 5–15 Jul in Casco Township, *St. Clair* (RE, SE), was south of normal in Michigan. Minnesota reported Great Gray Owls from 5 counties. Wisconsin noted 5 nesting sites for Short-eared Owls, while Minnesota had Short-eared Owls nesting in *Roseau* (RS, JS) and 18 individuals 18–19 Jun at 10 different locations in the northwestern portion of the state (PS).

A second state record in Michigan was furnished by an adult male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** that visited a feeder near Rockford, *Kent*, 11–13 Jul (DD, AC). Also in Michigan was an adult **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** 19–21 Jul in East LeRoy, *Calhoun* (EW); the record is pending MBRC review. Minnesota reported Three-toed Woodpeckers 4 Jun–early Jul on the Gunflint Trail, *Cook* (MSt), and 24 Jun along Spruce Road, *Lake* (KE). In Wisconsin, where the Three-toed Woodpecker is rare, one or two were reported from a burn area east of Gordon, *Douglas*, but the records lacked good documentation. In the same burn, however, Black-backed Woodpeckers were abundant, with over 12 being found. In Minnesota a Black-backed Woodpecker that nested in St. Croix SP, *Pine* (AHe, GS), was the southernmost nesting for the state. A first county record Acadian Flycatcher was found 7 Jun at the Big Island S.P., *Freeborn* in Minnesota. A Western Kingbird was present in Wisconsin 10–12 Jun in *Bayfied* (RB). Also in that state was a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** 15–16 Jun in *Washington* (BD, DG, et al.). Minnesota had a well-documented **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** 10–11 Jun in Duluth (JBr, PS) and another in *Olmsted* on 8 Jul whose documentation is still pending review.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Disappointing in Wisconsin were only two successful nestings of Loggerhead Shrike this season, well down from last year's nine. The nests were found in *Dunn* and *Oconto*, while single birds were seen in *Ozaukee* and *Door*. Minnesota also had lower numbers this year, with reports from only seven counties. The only report of White-eyed Vireo in Wisconsin this season was one during Jun in Janesville. A **Bell's Vireo** 18–19 Jul in *Berrien* (CG, BM, DS) furnished Michigan's first record in several years. A Philadelphia Vireo on 29 Jul in Ashland (DV) was considered unusual in Wisconsin. A female Carolina Wren in *Waupaca*, WI, was mated with a House Wren and raised 5 hybrid young (JH). Three Golden-crowned Kinglets 23 Jul in *Stearns* were record-early in southern Minnesota. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are expanding northward in Minnesota, as was evidenced by 9 nests in *Cass* at the northern edge of their range. A Swainson's Thrush on

18 Jul at Elm Creek NC, *Hennepin*, was the second earliest record in southern Minnesota. Very late in Wisconsin were 2 Bohemian Waxwings 6 Jun in *Vilas* (BF, KF), only the second summer record in the state.

Blue-winged Warblers are expanding their range in Minnesota, as evidenced by reports as far west as *Kandiyohi*, *Renville*, *Brown*, and *Blue Earth* this season. Tennessee Warblers appeared to linger outside their normal breeding areas in all three states and arrived south early in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Considered noteworthy in Minnesota were Northern Parulas 25 Jun in *Anoka* (WM) and an early migrant 19 Jul in *Hennepin* (SC). Wisconsin reported Yellow-throated Warblers summering again at Wyalusing S.P., while Michigan had reports from *Allegan* and *Berrien*. In Minnesota, where the species is still considered casual, there was a pair at Sibley S.P., *Kandiyohi* (RF, JFr), and one 18 Jun at William O'Brien S.P., *Washington* (DZ). A Pine Warbler to mid-Jun in Madison (PA) was considered unusual in Wisconsin. There were 891 singing males detected during this year's Kirtland's Warbler census in Michigan, down slightly from last year's 902 birds. There were 8 reported from four Upper Peninsula counties, with successful nesting in *Marquette* for the 5th consecutive year. The only Prairie Warbler report in Wisconsin was of one on 2 Jul in *Dane* (PA). Minnesota had its first summer records for Kentucky Warbler in four years with singles 20 May–24 Jun at Minneopa S.P., *Blue Earth* (MF, et al.), 25 Jun–19 Jul at Murphy-Hanrehan Park, *Scott* (BFa et al.), and 18 Jun at Lebanon Hills Park, *Dakota* (SWe). Michigan also had an exceptional summer for Kentucky Warblers, with reports from four counties, including up to 6 individuals in *Hillsdale* (JRe).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A pair of **Summer Tanagers** in *Hillsdale* (JRe) provided a rare summer record in Michigan. Minnesota reported a second-year male Summer Tanager 24 Jun in Murphy-Hanrehan Park, *Scott* (BFa). A Spotted Towhee was reported in Minnesota on 3 Jun at Litchfield NC, *Meeker* (DF). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin reported good numbers of Henslow's Sparrows this season. Noteworthy in Wisconsin were at least 4 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows through Jun at Crex Meadows W.A. Troubling in Minnesota was only one report of Chestnut-collared Longspur from their traditional location at Felton Prairie, *Clay*. Also in that state, Blue Grosbeaks were more widespread this season. Perhaps the same **Painted Bunting** that summered in Minnesota last year spent the season at Maple Grove, *Hennepin*. Dickcissels were more common this season, reaching the northern portions of the region, perhaps the best irruption since 1984. Minnesota had a its first confirmed nesting for **Great-tailed Grackle** in *Jackson* (AHe, PH). Orchard Orioles were reported more widespread than normal in Michigan this season. The **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** in Parke Township, *Clay*, was seen for the 3rd consecutive year in Minnesota. Worrisome was a possible House × Eurasian Tree Sparrow hybrid that was found at that location (PS).

Observers: Karl Bardon, John Baumgartner, Dan Belter, Betsy Beneke (BBe), Murray Berner, Laurie Binford, Ray Brady, David Brasser (DBr), Margaret Brasser (MBr), Judd Brink (JBr), **Adam Byrne** (Michigan), Amy Charlson, Steve Carlson, Phil Chu, Karl David, Nelvina De Kam, Bob Domagalski, Louie Dombroski, Dan Dykstra, Ed Earl, Lori Earl, Kim Eckert, Russ Emmons, Sylvia Emmons, Bruce Fall (BFa), Bob Fisher, Karen Fisher, Dan Floren, Jim Frank, Jean Frederickson (JFr), Randy Frederickson, Merrill Frydendall, Jim Granlund, Cory Gregory, Dennis Gustafson, Russ Hanson, Kent Hall, Brad Hammond, Mark Hendrickson, Anthony Hertzel (AHe), Paul Hertzel, Jan Hewitt, Aaron Holschbach, Mark Hubinger (MHu), Mark Korducki, Craig Mandel (CMa), William Marengo, Diane Millard, Steve Millard (SMi), Steve Minard, Mike Moran, Brad Murphy, Lyn Murphy, Michael North, Karl Overman, Walt Pawloski, Mark Peterson, Steffi Podolan, Janine Polk, Jim Ponshair (JPo), Paul Prior (PPr), John Regan, Georgia Reid, Jack Reinoehl (JRe), Pete Rodewald, Russ Schipper (RSc), Blaine Seeliner (BSe), Gary Simonson, David Slager, Jeanne Specht, Richard Specht, Jean Strelka (JSt), Mark Stensaas (MSt), Peder Svingen, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), John Trezise, Tom Tustison, Ellywn Warren, Steve Weston (SWe), George Wickstrom, **Terry Wiens** (Minnesota), Tom Wood (TWo), Joe Youngman, Tom Ziebell, Dave Zumeta.

middlewestern prairie

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Mercifully, the intense drought that had plagued much of the Region ended this summer. Rain began in late May, and June was exceptionally wet. In northeastern Indiana, for example, Jim Haw noted that the June precipitation exceeded the previous maximum by more than three inches.

Abundant early summer rainfall produced lush vegetation and a generally fine breeding season for passerines. It was an especially good summer for the grassland species. Low water conditions in late spring, however, negatively impacted wetland-nesting species. Low water levels early in the nesting season apparently interfered with species that breed in emergent vegetation. As a result several correspondents noted declines in marsh bird numbers this summer.

Overall most correspondents deemed the season near average. Other than some extraordinary nesting records (e.g. *Selaphorus* hummingbird and Painted Bunting), there were few rarities. Perhaps termination of the drought was the season's most noteworthy event.

Abbreviations: H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, St. Charles, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

It was a fairly typical summer for the Region's loons and grebes. The only noteworthy report involved a Pied-billed Grebe adult and four young seen in *Menifee*, KY, 13 Jun (MKe, TBi); this county is in e. Kentucky where few nesting records exist. A Western Grebe lingered in Springfield until 4 Jun (HDB). Summer-period American White Pelicans were reported in every state except Ohio; the easternmost record consisted of a singleton at L. Lemon, IN, 3 Jun (J & SH). The largest Double-crested Cormorant colony, among several active Illinois sites, consisted of 200 nests along with 1000+ birds at Carlyle L. 19 Jun (KAM, KDa). An additional 318 cormorants and 40 nests were observed at Coralville Res., IA, 9 Jun (MCD).

Low water levels, due to the dry late spring, negatively impacted the nesting of both bitterns. Reports suggest that the large heron and egret colonies in the Region continue to prosper. The peak Great Blue Heron nest count consisted of 502 at Clear L., IL, 1 Jun (VK, JWk). Noteworthy among other species reported in this group was a mixed colony of Snowy Egrets, Cattle Egrets, and Little Blue Herons in Sikeston, *Scott*, MO, which contained hundreds of nests (M. Bulander). Tricolored Herons reported in the spring summary at Carlyle L., IL, and Pickerel Creek, OH, lingered until 7 Jul (DKa) and 1 Jun (JHd, DS), respectively. Green Herons received few comments, although this species was deemed more numerous in w.-cen. Indiana than in recent years (AWB). The Lake Calumet Black-crowned Night-Heron colony contained an estimated 200 nests this year, but high water levels likely inhibited nesting success (WJM). This species also nested again along Mill Creek, *Hamilton*, OH (TU), and groups up to 100 at the Falls of the Ohio (MB, BPB), suggest that colonies near Louisville, KY, remained active this summer. Also of note was the successful nesting of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in a suburb of Columbus, OH (*fide* RHn).

The only *Plegadis* ibis reports were of 1–4 White-faced Ibis that occurred in Iowa and Missouri, where this species is regular. The season's most exciting rarity was Missouri's second imm. **Roseate Spoonbill**, which appeared at Swan Lake N.W.R. during the first week of July and remained for several days (m.ob.). The slow but persistent northward expansion of Black Vultures continued this summer with a 1 Jul sighting in *Kankakee*, IL (†DSt).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Snow Geese are becoming a regular component of the Region's summer avifauna. This summer up to 4 were reported in Iowa, 13 were at Carlyle L., IL, 19 Jun (DKa, KAM), and up to 10 were at Muskrat L., MO, 4 Jun (DAE). In Ohio the Trumpeter Swan introduction program resulted in 3 pairs with 12 young at Magee Marsh W.M.A., one brood at Killbuck W.M.A., nesting in Ashland and Muskingum Counties, and a failed nest in Sandusky County (*fide* RHn). Summer Gadwall numbers were up this season, with reports from every state except Kentucky and Ohio. In Missouri, where this species was deemed unusually numerous, a record 21 Gadwalls were counted at S.C.R. 2 Jun (DAE); in Iowa it was the second-most abundant dabbler after Mallard and Blue-winged Teal (JJD). Missouri's 2nd summer Cinnamon Teal, a male, was at S.C.R. 4 Jun (JHi, DAE). Northern Shovelers were also widespread this summer, with reports from every state except Indiana and nesting reported at Big Island, OH, where two broods were seen 15 Jul (VF).

A female Canvasback in *Madison*, IL, 19 Jun (CM, JMa), was most unusual for this southern location. Redheads, which are regular nesters in northwestern Iowa, bred again this summer, with a brood noted in *Palo Alto* 25 Jun (*fide* LAS). Other unexpected summer ducks included a male Common Goldeneye in *Madison*, IL, 19 Jun (CM, JMa), a female Bufflehead at Marble L., IA, 8 Jul (LAS) and a male in *Vermillion*, IN, 24 Jun (AWB). Hooded Mergansers appear to have had a good breeding season, with young reported in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. Most surprising was the discovery of an ad. male Common Merganser at S.C.R. 2–4 Jun (JHi, DAE). Though Ruddy Ducks were reported in all six states, nesting was confirmed in only Illinois and Ohio.

The Region's breeding population of Osprey expanded this summer, with nesting at new locations in Indiana and Kentucky. A nest containing a chick was observed at Potato Creek S.P., IN, (*fide* JSC) and a nest, apparently active since 1997, was discovered at the TVA Paradise Power Plant., *Muhlenberg*, KY (DR, BPB). The Mississippi Kite's expansion into the Region continued, with reports from all six states and nesting in every state except Ohio. Noteworthy among the nesting reports was the 2 Jul discovery of an active nest and chick in Reelfoot Lake N.W.R., KY, to provide that state's first confirmed nesting record (BPB, MM). Another kite wandered e. to East Fork S.P., OH, where it was photographed 5 Jul (FR, ph.). Two active Northern Harrier nests were observed at the Peabody W.M.A., KY, during the summer (MM, BL, JG).

In Missouri, Greater Prairie-Chicken numbers were deemed steady this summer (*fide* JWa), and several correspondents painted a brighter picture for Northern Bobwhite. Following this season's pattern for marsh species, King Rail reports were sparse: one in Illinois, 2 in Missouri, and a pair in Ohio. Despite the weak breeding season, the Common Moorhen population has rebounded nicely from its nadir a decade ago. Modest numbers were reported in all six states, with nesting confirmed in three. Sandhill Cranes strengthened their foothold as a breeding species in the Region. In Illinois 5 pairs nested in *Winnebago* (DW) and single pairs with young were reported in *Kane* and *McHenry* (DKi, GS). Nearby Indiana had at least 10 pairs scattered across the northern tier of counties (*fide* AWB).

SHOREBIRDS

The first returning American Golden-Plover was reported at R.E.D.A. 24 Jun (m.ob); in w. *Fulton*, KY, 9 Jul (KL) another provided one of the earliest fall records for that state. Piping Plovers had a mediocre nesting season at the traditional Iowa nesting sites. Two adults and three

young were seen at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds near Council Bluffs 9, 12, & 29 Jun (BKP, LJP), and 2 pairs each had 2 young at Port Neal near Sioux City (BFH). The only migrant Piping Plover report involved 2 birds at Miller Beach, IN, 2 Jul (BG). Black-necked Stilt reports declined noticeably this summer; the Region's only submission consisted of 1–2 seen in *Pulaski*, IL, 1–10 Jul (FB). A total of 17 American Avocets was reported in three northern states, a typical total for the summer period. Willets appeared in every state except Kentucky; the peak count consisted of 32 at Michigan City Harbor, IN, 9 Jul (BG). It is difficult to assess the Upland Sandpiper season. The only out-of-the-ordinary comment noted "many on territory" at Pawnee Prairie, *Harrison*, MO, 12 Jun (SK). On the Great Lakes, Whimbrels were reported only in Indiana, but inland birds were recorded at two locations. One appeared at Coralville Res., IA, 7 Jun (†MCD, †CE) to provide that state's 2nd summer record, and another was at Meredosia N.W.R., IL, 10 Jun (TL et al.). One of the season's most remarkable records involved a flock of 19 Hudsonian Godwits that flew past Miller Beach, IN, 30 Jul (BG). Not only does this report provide one of the Region's few summer records, but this number is unprecedented for such an early date. Marbled Godwits were scarce, with reports only from Iowa where 2 were at L. Rathbun 26 Jul (TNJ) and one was at Coralville Res. the following day (MCD).

Inland Ruddy Turnstones appeared in above-normal numbers. A tardy spring migrant at S.C.R. 2 Jun (DE) provided Missouri's 2nd summer record. The earliest fall turnstones were a flock of 8 adults at Carlyle L., IL, 27 Jul (DKa); another appeared at the Brown Power Plant, *Mercer*, KY 31 Jul (NE). Single Red Knots made appearances at both ends of the season. A late spring migrant was at Carlyle L., IL, 5 Jun (DKa, KAM) and an early fall bird was at Conneaut, OH, 30 Jul (PL et al.). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers lingered at S.C.R. until 2 Jun (DE) to provide Missouri's 3rd summer record. An extraordinarily late Least Sandpiper was still at the Brown Power Plant, *Mercer*, KY, 16 Jun (RD). Northbound White-rumped Sandpipers tarried in the Region this spring, providing June records in every state except Indiana. The peak count consisted of 31 at Dugout Creek W.M.A., IA, 3 Jun (LAS) and the latest was in Springfield 12 Jun (HDB). Interestingly, overzealous southbound Baird's Sandpipers were reported in two states on 22 July. One was seen at L. Shelby, IL (RTC), and the other, which was at the Paradise Power Plant, *Muhlenberg* (MB), provided an all-time early arrival date for Kentucky. July Dunlins are quite unusual in the Region, consequently 2 at S.C.R. 17 Jul (DE) were noteworthy. Also most unexpected was an incredibly late ad. Stilt Sandpiper that loitered at Carlyle L., IL, until 16 Jun (DKa). A 30 June Short-billed Dowitcher at Orland, IN (Haw), was an early fall migrant. The presence of June female Wilson's Phalaropes at three Iowa locations suggested local nesting. The evidence was even stronger at Big Island, OH, where a male giving distraction displays 28 Jun was joined by a juvenile in late July (VF). There is only one previous breeding record for Ohio (*fide* RHn).

GULLS THROUGH TERNS

Laughing Gulls appeared in typical summer numbers, with 4 in Illinois plus 2 each in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Single Franklin's Gulls wandered e. to Ohio, where they were seen at Caesar Creek L. 7 Jun (LG) and at Buck Creek S.P. 22–23 Jul (DO). The established Lake Calumet Ring-billed Gull colony had an estimated 5000 nests this season (WJM), and the small colony at Meinking Marsh, *Dickinson*, IA, was again active, with eight nests counted 15 Jun (NB).

Common Terns were unusually widespread this summer. In Kentucky an adult and a second-summer bird seen at farm pond in s. *Warren* 19 Jun (DR) provided one of few "mid-summer" records for that state. Also in Kentucky, Least Terns had a rough breeding season. Heavy late June precipitation flooded most nests along the Ohio R. Re-nesting occurred and 64 nests with eggs were counted above Paducah 17 July (BPB). Elsewhere Least Terns experienced more hospitable conditions. A survey along the Mississippi R. below the Ohio R. yielded 10 colonies containing 720 pairs (R. Renken), and an unexpected nesting attempt was made at R.E.D.A.—which is miles from known nesting areas—where a pair was noted 19 Jun (CM). At the MidAmerican Energy Ponds, Iowa's traditional breeding site, 11 Least Terns were counted 29 Jun, but eggs or young were not observed (BKP, LJP). As expected, small numbers of Black Terns appeared in most states; the peak tally consisted of 60 at Union Slough N.W.R. 9 Jul (MCK).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

The expansion of Eurasian Collared-Doves accelerated this summer, with nestings and reports from new locations in four states. White-winged Doves also continue making inroads into the Region. Single birds were reported at two Iowa locations: *Hamilton* 1–18 Jun (†B. Frankhauser et al.), and at a farm near Grime 27 Jun (†R. Bartelt). Single undocumented White-wingeds were also reported in Missouri and Ohio. The latter, which was at a backyard feeder in Bellefontaine 10 June (R. Rinehard, M. Misplon et al.) has been accepted by the Ohio committee as that state's first **White-winged Dove**. Cuckoos were reported in normal numbers except in n. Ohio, where Larry Rosche estimated the ratio of Yellow-billed to Black-billed Cuckoos at 30:1, while in Illinois Douglas Stotz deemed this the worst summer in years. A Greater Roadrunner in *Laclede*, MO, 25 Jul (J. Wallmark), was well ne. of this species' expected range.

SA An amazing hummingbird story unfolded in Mason City, IA. In that fine town an unusual female hummingbird was detected at Rita Goranson's feeder during the summer. With considerable effort the bird was ultimately identified on 19 July as belonging to the genus *Selasphorus* (†RG, †JLW, †CJF, PH). The field marks were consistent with a female Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird. The plot thickened in late July when someone reported finding a hummingbird nest in the Goranson neighborhood. Rita visited the nest site and discovered, to her amazement, that a female *Selasphorus* hummingbird, presumably the same bird that visited her feeder, occupied the nest. The female was actively feeding two young birds. Unfortunately the youngsters fledged immediately after Goranson's observation. Owners of the yard containing the nest did obtain low-quality video of the female and young, which has been provided for the Iowa Records Committee. Identification of the the female's mate remains unclear, however, the Records Committee is still investigating this remarkable event. This scenario certainly provides compelling evidence for the Region's first breeding *Selasphorus* hummingbird, at least as a 50% partner.

It was a better-than-average season for Barn Owls, with nesting reported in every state except Kentucky. In late July a Burrowing Owl was discovered in extreme nw. Iowa (*Lyon*) where this species is casual; the bird was seen again 1 Aug (†DCH). Single Short-eared Owls, seen at opposite ends of the state, suggest that this species still nests in Iowa. The only comments regarding Common Nighthawks came from Illinois, where poor numbers were noted again this summer in the central part of the state (KAM) and numbers were still low in Chicago (EW). A 17 Jul calling Chuck-will's-widow in *Elliott* (EM) was quite unusual for e. Kentucky. Several Missouri reporters perceived a decline in numbers of both Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills (*fide* JWi).

Summer Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports from n. Iowa included a pair with young observed at Oak Hill Cemetery in *Emmit* 11 Jun (LAS). Lingering spring migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in early June in several states, the latest 8 Jun at Purdue University N. Central, IN (SB). Also tardy was an Alder Flycatcher at S.C.R. 2 Jun (DE). Mid-summer Alders reported in Illinois at Nachusa 29 May–23 Jul (AH) and 24 Jun in *Lake* (CF) suggest possible nesting in that state. Western Kingbirds were well-represented among the breeding species this summer, with 5 nests in Illinois and 4 in Iowa, plus nesting in Missouri. A pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in sc. *Randolph*, IL, from late May through late June may have nested (DN et al.). Some 16 Loggerhead Shrike nests were found in both Illinois (m.ob) and s. Indiana (JSC). Bell's Vireo numbers were typical this summer; a nest at Buck Creek S.P., OH, a traditional breeding Ohio site, was found abandoned in early June (DO).

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Cliff Swallows appear to be flourishing in the Region. More than 300 nests were counted at Carlyle L., IL, 22 Jul (DKa) and the population was reportedly "exploding" in wc. Indiana, where at least 6 colonies, including one new site, were reported (AWB). Peak tallies of fall migrants included 1200 Purple Martins in *Union*, IL, 29 Jul (DKa et al.), 2000+ Tree Swallows at Clinton L., IL, 29 Jul (RTC), and 2000+ Bank Swallows at L. Chautauqua N.W.R., IL, 30 Jul (RTC). A hybrid Barn x Cliff Swallow, found in *Hopkins*, KY, in early May, remained until at least 17 Jul (BPB, MM). It was an unusual summer for Red-breasted Nuthatches, with a pair feeding young in Dayton, OH, 19 Jun (*fide* C. Mathena), and 2 adults and 2 begging young in *Marion*, IN, 10 Jun (*fide* DG). Results of Don Gorney's careful Brown Creeper surveys suggest that Indiana was awash with summer birds; he found 41 birds and 13 nests within the state. Five Golden-crowned Kinglet territories were found at the traditional *Medina*, OH, site 19 June (RHn, SW). There was also an unsuccessful Golden-crowned nesting effort in Chicago's Morton Arboretum, where a territorial pair was present 10 Jun but disappeared soon thereafter (EW).

Though Northern Parulas are generally abundant breeders in Kentucky, active nests are rarely observed. This summer however, an unsuccessful nesting effort was attempted in a spruce just outside the second floor of a home in Pike County; this event provided only the second record of an active nest in the state (*fide* BPB). That fact that Yellow Warblers begin fall migration very early was confirmed 29 Jul when a migrant was seen on the Chicago lakefront (JL). Two Blackburnian Warbler territories were observed in the Indiana Dunes, where this species is becoming established as a breeding species (JKC, SB, et al.). Two territorial Pine Warblers were discovered in *Elkhart*, IN, 4 Jul (RHe), where this species was not previously known to nest. Worm-eating Warblers went unreported in Iowa (JJD) for the first time in 16 years . An extremely early Northern Waterthrush was found in a Chicago park 28 Jul (JL). Mourning Warblers were unusually well-represented in the summer report, with a singing male at Carlyle L., IL, 14 Jun (DKa), a territorial bird at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN, 10 Jun–6 Jul (LC, Haw, DG), and 3 territories in *Lucas*, OH (TBa, ET). A Spotted Towhee seen at Hidden Bridge W.M.A. 28 Jun (DCH) provided Iowa's first summer record. A 28 Jul flock of 35–40 Lark Sparrows, including many juveniles, at Coralville Res., OH, (MCD), is among the largest tallies ever recorded for the Region. An impressive 100+ Grasshopper Sparrows were counted at Big Island, OH, 30 Jun (VF). It was a good season for Henslow's Sparrows, with glowing reports from every state. Accidental in the region e. of the Mississippi R., the successful nesting of **Painted Buntings** in East St. Louis, IL, was most remarkable. The pair was first detected 29 Jul (DKa, KAM) and the nest, which contained at least 2 young, was located the following day (DKa, ph. m.ob.). Dickcissels were exuberantly abundant this summer, with unusually high numbers in all 4 of the northern states. Most unexpected was a male Yellow-headed Blackbird in ne. Indiana near Huntertown; the bird was reported at Bob Walton's feeder 18 Jul. A Pine Siskin at Ventura, IA, 5 Jun (CJF) was presumably a spring migrant, however, the intentions of a bird in Collins, MO 1 Aug (EJ), were less certain.

RECORDS COMMITTEES UPDATE: Ohio: The 20 Oct 1999 Pine Grosbeak in *Paulding*, OH, reported in *N. Am. Birds* 54:60, was rejected by the Ohio Committee. **Indiana:** Both the Common Crane and Western Scrub-Jay, also reported in the fall 1999 *N. Am. Birds* summary, were accepted by the Indiana Committee.

Contributors (Subregional editors in boldface): Numerous individuals contributed to this report, consequently, many persons not individually acknowledged submitted notes for various state reports. Alan Anderson, Susan Bagby, Tom Bartlett (TBa), Frank Bennett, Mark Bennett, Neil Bernstein, Tom Biebighauser (TBi), H. David Bohlen, **Alan W. Bruner** (Indiana), Dennis Carter, Lee Casebere, John K. Cassady, John S. Castrale, Robert T. Chapel, Roseanna Denton, **James J. Dinsmore** (Iowa), Michael C. Dooley, David A. Easterla, Chris Edwards, Neil Eklund, Vic Fazio, Carolyn J. Fischer, Larry Gara, Jim Giocomo, Rita Goranson, Don Gorney, Brendan Grube, **Robert Harlan** (RHn) (Ohio), Joe Hammond (JHd), Douglas C. Harr, Ann Haverstock, Jim Haw (Haw), Roger Hedge (RHe), Jim & Susan Hengeveld (J&SH), Paul Hertzel, Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Bill F. Huser, Evelyn Johnson, Thomas N. Johnson, Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Matthew C. Kenne, Mike Kenawell (MKe), Steve Kinder, Dan Kirk (DKi), **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), James Landing, Ken Leggett, Brian Leibacher, Tom Lerczak, Paul Lozano, Charlene Malone, Jim Malone (JMa), Walter J. Marcisz, Keith A. McMullen, Mark Monroe, Rhonda Monroe, Evelyn Morgan, Debby Newman, Doug Overacker, Babs K. Padelford, Loren J. Padelford, **Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr.** (BPB) (Kentucky), Ed Pierce, John Pogacnik, Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Frank Renfrow, Michael Retter (MRe), David Roemer, Larry Rosche (LRo), Dan Sanders (DSa), Lee A. Schoenewe, Jim Sinclair (JSi), Graham Smith, Douglas Stotz (DSt), Elliot Tramer, Tom Uhlman, Sandy Wagner, Jeff Walk (JWa), Jan L. Walter, Eric Walters, Peter Weber, John Wilker (JWk), Dan Williams Jr, **Jim Wilson** (JWi)(Missouri).

central southern

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The dominant feature of the millennium's final summer was the sustained and widespread drought, which reached record or near-record proportions in some areas. Rainfall was near normal in June, but following record-low precipitation in April and May, July and August were almost without rain. By the end of the period, New Orleans was nearly 30 inches below normal! It is to be lamented that, absent detailed studies of reproductive success in landbird populations, one can only speculate about the effects of the dry weather on breeding. Its impact on shorebird habitat is perhaps less obscure, although low water levels can, depending on local factors, decrease or increase the extent of mudflats in the marsh. Several huge concentrations of waders in south-central Louisiana may have been a product of generally low water levels in the swamps and marshes.

If the lack of tropical weather contributed to dry conditions, the absence of storm tides evidently resulted in successful nesting of the colonial breeding birds on the barrier islands along the Louisiana, a suspicion largely confirmed by at least three trips that were made to the Chandeleurs in June and July. The trans-gulf migration studies continued through the summer, with a single platform (GC18) manned. Most of the records therefrom were of seabirds, but there were a few interesting landbirds as well.

Abbreviations: Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Green Canyon 18 (GC18); Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC), Oktibbeha Audubon Society (OAS).

SHEARWATERS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Cory's Shearwater seen about 50 mi S. off S. Pass of the Mississippi R. 12 Jul (PC, SWC, DLD et al.) was perhaps the first July record for Louisiana, although the species may, indeed, be regular. A month earlier, on 12 Jun, at least a dozen Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were encountered, mostly 30–40 mi sse. of S. Pass (DLD, SWC et al.); on 12 Jul two were noted, also 30–40 mi off S. Pass. (DLD, SWC et al.). A total of 18 Wilson's Storm-Petrels was recorded on the two trips. Although not yet officially accepted by the LBRC, it is evident that Band-rumped Storm-Petrel is quite regular over very deep water (usually >1000 m) off the mouth of the Mississippi R. in summer, with numbers at least approaching those of Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Although American White Pelicans linger along the coast in summer, they are usually absent inland, so reports of single individuals in n. Mississippi in *Noxubee* 15 Jun (Dri, TS, the first summer record there) and in *Madison* 25 Jun (TS, MS) were unusual. Anhingas were notably conspicuous at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, from late spring through the end of the period, peaking at 12 (including adults feeding young) 8 Jul (BL). The 13 reports of Least Bitterns, dominated by 12 records of at least 16 individuals from coastal *Jackson*, MS (most reported by Delmas), may reflect diligence in reporting rather than abundance of this seemingly declining species. A large heron roost in *St. Martin*, LA, 18 Jul included 1000+ Great Egrets and 4600 Snowy Egrets (BF, GG, SS, MCo). In all 13,163 waders were tallied (see below) at this spot near Catahoula, LA. A huge concentration of 2000 Great Egrets in *Lonoke* 29 Jul was the largest ever for Arkansas (KN, LDN). The count of 35,545 Cattle Egrets at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, 29 Jul (MC,TS,O.A.S.), while impressive, was actually similar to counts at this Bluff Lake location in the recent past. The 310 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in the *St. Martin*, LA, roost 18 Jul (BF, GG, MCo, SS) represented a high concentration of a not especially gregarious species, but was dwarfed by the count of 4040 White Ibises there. Up to 33 young were produced in a colony on Bluff L., *Noxubee*, MS, representing the first area nesting of the species (TS, MC, m.ob.).

Wood Storks were present in unprecedented numbers in central and southwest Louisiana, and while they arrived early in Alabama—17–18 Jun in *Lauderdale* (AM, SH, DH)—numbers in that state were not unusual. However, almost 7000 were reported from Louisiana, with 4300 of those were in one grand concentration in *Vermilion*, LA, 29 Jul (MM, GS, PW); another 2300 were in *St. Martin* (BF, GG, SS, MCo). Elsewhere, up to 122 were seen 15 Jun+ at Noxubee N.W.R. (JV, BD, TS, MC, m.ob.), and 39, all first-year birds, were in *Bradley*, AR, 18 Jun (JC). One in Iberville 28 May (SF, RSe) was early.

One never knows what to make of sightings of waterfowl lingering into the summer; many, obviously, are cripples. Some, however, are healthy, and perhaps even breeding, e.g., Blue-winged Teal in *Vermilion*, LA, 9 Jul (JK, KF). There were four reports of Northern Shovelers in *Vermilion* and *Cameron*, LA (JK, CF, DR,

KF), and records of single Northern Pintails from *Desha*, AR, 11 Jun (MP, HP, DlH, DnH) and *Vermilion*, LA, 9 Jul (JK, KF). Two Surf Scoters in *Hancock*, MS, 17 Jul (BS, *fide* SJP) were remarkable, as was a male Black Scoter at Ft. Morgan 9 Jun (BL, LF) for a 2nd summer record from Alabama. There were three records of Ruddy Duck, consisting of a surprising 7 birds in *Clark*, AR (DlH), 5 in *Vermilion*, LA, 9 Jul (JK, KF), and a single female in *Jackson*, LA, 22 Jul (JB, JM). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, which apparently continue to spread away from sw. Louisiana, were included in six reports from five parishes. Five of the observations were of pairs, the most interesting being that of a pair with 9 young at Ama, *St. Charles*, 29 Jul (GM) near where there have been sightings for several years. Although Mottled Ducks are quite rare in Arkansas and do not breed north of central Louisiana, a pair was found in *Chicot* 11 Jun (DnH, DlH, MP, HP) and another was at Bald Knob N.W.R. 4 Jul (KN, LDN).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

While Ospreys breed regularly in coastal Alabama and Mississippi (and inland as well), they are rare elsewhere in the Region in summer. This year an active nest in Faulkner, AR, fledged one young (SC, Jsh, DS), while 2 young fledged from a nest near Venice, LA, and one adult was seen in Baton Rouge, LA, 27 Jul (JK).

Jennifer Coulson's aerial survey of Swallow-tailed Kite roosts in the Pearl R. basin (LA and MS) yielded a high count of 149 individuals 27 Jul (JOC, PS, BFa), and 10–12 were seen from the W. Atchafalaya basin levee 30 Jul (BF, MkS, BM). White-tailed Kites continued to breed in the vicinity of Holly Beach, LA, as evidenced by 3 juveniles near a nest site 3 Jun (PW, CS, MM). A count of 100+ Mississippi Kites in the w. "Black Belt" area 29 Jul (GJH, m.ob.) represented an unprecedented number for inland Alabama. Bald Eagles nested at Bald Knob N.W.R., AR, producing young and staying through 3 Jun (KN, LDN, BA), and in *Shelby*, TN, 4 Jun–10 Jul (OKM, MGW). A pair was present in *Chilton*, AL, 18 Jun (LJ, DTM, et al), and a sub-adult was at Noxubee N.W.R., MS, 27 Jun–7 Jul (TS, Dri, AD). Northern Harriers were seen in *Lake* and *Dyer*, TN, throughout the season (JRW), an unprecedented event that suggested nesting. There were two reports of nesting Sharp-shinned Hawks from *Pope*, AR, 27 Apr–10 Jul (L. Anderson), involving two nests, and a single pair 9 Jun (RG, JA), as well as a nest in Memphis 23 Jun (MaH), established the first confirmed breeding in w. Tennessee. Four records of single Cooper's Hawks from Louisiana suggested nesting: 1 Jun in *Iberville* (JOC, CR), 11 Jun in *St. Tammany* (JOC, TDC), 25 Jun in *Orleans* (PW, MM, GP), and 16 Jul in *St. Bernard* (TDC); however, a nest that produced 4 young in residential New Orleans during late June (JS) provided the most dramatic evidence of the expansion of the breeding range of this species into se. Louisiana. Nesting was also confirmed in w. Tennessee, when adults with young were found in Memphis 12 Jun (NPM, SNM). Two in *White*, AR, 3 Jun and three Jul records from *Cleburne* and *White* were also of interest (KN, LDN).

Eleven King Rails in *Lowndes* 8 Jun (TAP), including a bird on a nest, represented a maximum count for inland Alabama. Purple Gallinules nested in n. Mississippi at Noxubee N.W.R., where 4 adults produced 6 young (TS, m.ob.), and in *Madison*, MS, where 7 adults hatched 6 young (TS, MS); at Cameron Prairie N.W.R., LA, there were a total of 76, including downy young, on 1 Jul (JK, DR, KF). Common Moorhens also bred in *Noxubee* and *Madison*, MS, with 6 young present at the latter location 25 Jun (TS, MS).

Perhaps offering hope for the species' future, Wood Storks appeared in unprecedented numbers in Louisiana, including a staggering concentration of 4300 birds in Vermilion Parish 29 Jul 2000, a few hundred of which appear in this image. ***Photograph by Gwen Smalley.***

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

The 40+ reports of migrant shorebirds included the usual non-breeding lingerers along the coast. Among more interesting records was a Snowy Plover in *Cameron* 22 Jul (JK, DR, CF) in an area where they have bred recently; southbound Piping Plovers in *Shelby*, TN, 5 Jul (MT, DM, JRW), *Lonoke*, AR, 11 Jul (BB), and *Prairie*, AR, 18 Jul (KN, LDN); early (if southbound migrants) Lesser Yellowlegs 21 & 28 Jun in *Benton*, AR (MMl), totaling 14 birds; a very early Spotted Sandpiper in *Benton* 28 Jun (MMl), the first Jun record for Arkansas in at least 14 years; a Whimbrel in *Cameron*, LA, 1 Jul (JK, DR, KF); Long-billed Curlews 3 Jun (MM, CS, PW, 2 birds) and 1 Jul (JK, DR, KF, CF, 3 birds) in *Cameron*, plus another there 22 Jul; 8 Marbled Godwits, the first ever in Jun for Arkansas and the largest concentration at one time, in *Benton* 21 Jun (MMl); and single early Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers in *Benton* 17 & 21 Jun, respectively (MMl). A concentration of 1350 Stilt Sandpipers in a single field in *Vermilion*, LA, 29 Jul (MM, PW, GS) might attest to general drought conditions. The following "out-of-season" shorebirds were encountered on the trip to Breton, Gosier, and Curlew Islands 2 Jul (DM, RDP, PW): 18 Black-bellied Plovers, 20 Semipalmated Plovers, one Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Long-billed Curlews, 7 Marbled Godwits, 3 Ruddy Turnstones, 120 Red Knots, 42 Sanderlings, 12 Western Sandpipers, 3 Least Sandpipers, and 5 Short-billed Dowitchers (RDP, DM, PW).

Ten American Oystercatchers, including two young, were noted from Breton to Curlew Islands 2 Jul (RDP, PW, DM). Large numbers of Black-necked Stilts were reported from *Vermilion*, LA, in Jul, the maximum count being an impressive 2800 29 Jul (PW, MM, GS).

A trip to the beaches of *Cameron*, LA, yielded three records of Pomarine Jaeger (2 adults, 1 immature), all onshore 3–4 Jun (PW, MM, CS). The same observers counted 600 Common Terns on *Cameron* beaches 3 Jun, but the highlight of the trip was an adult **Arctic Tern** on Rutherford Beach 4 Jun, about the 6th for Louisiana (ph.*). An adult Black Tern in *Oktibbeha*, MS, 27 Jun (TS) was almost in the middle of a 25-day period for which there are no local records, thus, it was either the latest or the earliest ever by nearly two weeks. The rooftop Gull-billed Tern colony at Clearview Shopping Center in Metairie, LA, continued to thrive. Numbers peaked at over 360 adults in mid-May; by early Jun 270 adults had produced over 120 young, or an average of about one chick per nest (RDP). A group of 80 Least Terns in *Lonoke*, AR, 29 Jul (KN, LDN) was a large number for a location away from nesting areas. A Sooty Tern in *Harrison*, MS, 29-30 Jul (BD, *fide* SP) was unexpected onshore in the absence of any tropical weather.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Highlighting their continued vigorous expansion throughout the Region were 14 Eurasian Collared-Doves on a BBS route in *Noxubee*, MS, 4 Jun (TS), one in *Chicot*, AR, 11 Jun (DlH, DnH), 9 in Jonesboro, AR, 23 Jul (HD), and several in W. Tennessee in Jun and Jul, which established the first nesting for *Lake* (WGC, MAG, KL, JRW, et al). The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has declared a season on the species to coincide with that of Mourning Dove, but with no bag limit. A White-winged Dove in *Shelby* 25–27 Jun (TF, KM, ph. JRW) represented the first documented record for Tennessee; a pair that summered in Gulfport, MS, 22 Jul+ (NM) raised the possibility of nesting. An Inca Dove was in Conway, AR, 21 Jul (DDH, MA), while 2 pairs of Common Ground-Doves fledged at least one young in *Chilton*, AL, in Jun (RS, MBS) and another was seen in *Greene*, MS, 2 Jul (SJP). A Black-billed Cuckoo nest in *Lake*, TN, throughout the season (ph. JRW, MAG, KL) was the first for that county and the first for w. Tennessee in 50 years. A nighthawk in New Orleans' Audubon Park 22–25 Jun (PW, m.ob.) was thought by many to be an **Antillean Nighthawk**, the 2nd for Louisiana if accepted. Recorded calls have been sent to experts for clarification. An adult male Buff-bellied Hummingbird that appeared in Laplace, LA, 23 Jul (SN, NLN, RS, LB, MO) was not only extremely early but had been banded as an adult 19 Feb 1993, and hence was at least 9 years old. According to Newfield this individual is the oldest of the species ever recorded.

In recent years there have been several records of Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds in s. Louisiana, mostly in spring or summer and generally silent. This pattern is notably different from the fall vagrancy in other western flycatchers. This summer one was seen and photographed in *Vermilion* 29 Jul (PW, MM, GS), and an earlier one on Isles Derniers, LA, 23 May (SWC, DLD) did not find its way into the spring report. The Great Kiskadee present at Venice, LA, since April 1999 constructed a nest on the same structure as the previous summer and remained into early September (v.o.). Nesting Western Kingbirds in *Little River*, AR, 11 Jun (JC, CM) were notable, as was a nesting pair of Gray Kingbirds in Biloxi, MS, mentioned also in the spring report. One in *Baldwin*, AL, 3 Jun (BE, et al) provided only the 2nd Alabama record away from the immediate coast. The species nested sparingly in nw. Florida, but according to Duncan it still has not repopulated areas where it bred prior to 1995 hurricanes. Up to 3 adults (2 males, 1 female) in *Lake*, TN, during the period failed in a first attempted nesting, but fledged young in a second (KL, ph. JRW, WGC, MAG); apparently there was a second nesting in *Lake* as well, during Jul, with two young (CBP, WRP, VBR, WGC).

SA Following the devastation by Hurricane *Georges* in 1998, Curlew and other nearby islands in Louisiana's Chandeleur chain of barrier islands have accreted substantially, so that sizeable tern colonies have been reestablished, although numbers are well below historical highs. Several Kelp Gulls or Kelp x Herring Gull hybrids were seen on Curlew, S. Gosier, and N. Breton Islands 2 Jul (RDP, DM, PW), with possibly 1–2 pure adult Kelps and at least 14 hybrids of various descriptions, including 3 chicks. Earlier, Cardiff and Dittmann had 20 large gulls, at least 7 dark-mantled, but no pure Kelps. The species, known to breed on the Chandeleurs since 1989, has now been added to the Louisiana list by the LBRC. However, observers should not minimize the problem of distinguishing dark-mantled Kelp x Herring hybrids from pure Kelps, especially as the birds disperse along the coast in winter. Approximately 13,000 Royal and Sandwich Terns were counted on Curlew I. and S. Gosier Is. 2 Jul (DM, RDP, PW), and there were 14 adult Gull-billed Terns, at least a dozen Common Terns, and on Curlew, 36 Sooty Terns, mostly on eggs but with a few hatchlings. Over 2000 Black Skimmers were noted, mostly on S. Breton I.

VIREOS THROUGH GRACKLES

Two Blue-headed Vireos on a BBS in *Randolph*, AL, 4 Jun (RRR) were in an area where the species has occasionally bred. Three Horned Larks 28 Jul in *Oktibbeha*, MS, (TS), one in fresh juvenal plumage, provided confirmation of recent presumed nesting in the area. Tree Swallows in *Noxubee* and *Oktibbeha* in Jun and Jul (TS, MS), totaling at least 9 individuals, along with reported nesting in *Lowndes* (*fide* TS), add to the meager knowledge of the breeding of this species in n. Mississippi. A pair 15 Jun–14 Jul in *Lauderdale*, AL, where the species is a rare nester, apparently fledged 5 young (PDK, CDC). An adult in *Benton*, AR, 5 Jun (MMl) also suggested nesting nearby. Cliff Swallows continue to expand in n. Mississippi, exemplified by 76 nests in *Oktibbeha* 28–29 Jul (TS); there were 6 new breeding sites in Alabama (GDJ). A late Veery in *St. Martin*, LA, 6 Jun molting in a new tail, was banded by Conover. A pair of Gray Catbirds raised two young in Duncan's yard in Gulf Breeze, FL, the first confirmed nesting for nw. Florida. Cedar Waxwings which nested in *Haywood*, TN, for the first time (RPF), were under observation throughout Jun, and there were up to 4 at a time from late Jun to late Jul in *Benton*, AR (Mml, WC).

The four inland reports of Yellow Warbler all came from the 20–23 Jul period, which is not considered especially early on the coast, but one in *Oktibbeha*, MS, 20 Jul (TS) was the earliest ever for that area by a week. One of the most interesting oil-platform birds for the season was an adult female Myrtle Warbler on GC18 27 Jun–1 Jul (MM), either two months late or three months early as a migrant! Another 18 Jun

at Hatchie N.W.R., TN (LAZ, VVZ), though not quite so out-of-place, nonetheless provided the 4th summer record for the state and the first for w. Tennessee. Earliest ever in fall for coastal Mississippi were a Black-and-white Warbler on Horn Is. 4 Jul (AD) and a Worm-eating Warbler in *Harrison* 27 Jul (JD). As a rare and local resident in the summer in the Ozarks, up to 4 singing male Chestnut-sided Warblers 9–25 Jun (MMl) in two separate *Newton*, AR, locations were noteworthy. Nine reports of breeding Black-throated Green Warblers were received from Arkansas, including 4 records (4 adults, 2 immatures) from *Polk* and *Montgomery* in the Ouachita Mtns (RHD) and 5 (4 adults, 4 immatures) from *Izard*, *Newton*, *Pope*, *Searcy*, and *Johnson* in Ozark N.F. (LA). With concern mounting over the status of Swainson's Warbler, we merely note the following reports from n. Mississippi and Arkansas, where the species is uncommon: three records of single birds in *Oktibbeha* and *Noxubee*, MS (TS, MS), and another individual in *Grant*, AR, 11 Jun (RHD). Donata Roome, who is studying the species in Louisiana, found 20 nests this breeding season, 13 in the Pearl R. basin. Of this total, young were fledged successfully from at least six nests, six were depredated, and one was abandoned. Latest laying date was 15–16 Jun.

Also declining is Bachman's Sparrow, of which Schiefer dutifully submitted two reports from *Noxubee* and and *Chickasaw*, MS, the latter involving 2 singing males 22 Jun in "remnant Black Belt Prairie" habitat. Lark Sparrows, rarely found nesting in w. Tennessee, established the first *Lake* breeding record (JRW, WGC, KL); there were 6 reports, all implying breeding, from Alabama, where the species is "rare but increasing." Late were a single Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Pontotoc*, MS, 4–5 Jun (MtS, DS) and a White-throated Sparrow in *Webster*, MS, 7 Jun (MS, TS). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles in *Dyer*, TN (JRW, LP), would furnish the first record for the state if accepted.

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June was cool throughout the region, ranging from extremely wet in southern Manitoba to severe drought conditions in southern Alberta. July was generally warmer, with some exceptionally hot spells in Saskatchewan. Cold, wet weather persisted well into July on the Hudson Bay coast, where ground-nest losses were compounded by increased predation due to low lemming numbers. Wet conditions in se. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba were a mixed blessing. Species apparently benefitting included Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Black Tern, and Sedge Wren. There was some evidence that Yellow Rails were displaced by high water from traditional fens and marshes to more transitory wetlands. Rapid water-level changes coupled with strong winds diminished productivity for some Eared and Western Grebe colonies.

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Manitoba's 7th **Yellow-billed Loon** visited Churchill 10–11 Jun (RKn et al.). Up to 10 Great Egrets frequented Whitewater L., MB, from mid-June into Aug (m.ob.), and one summered near Innisfail, AB (RH, BV et al.). A Snowy Egret was at Reed L., SK, July 30 (WH), and Manitoba's first Tricolored Heron since 1993 was at Whitewater L. 14–17 Jun (BdL, AW, RW, TW). Other highlights at Whitewater L. were 5 Cattle Egrets 22 Jul (RP, LV) and several White-faced Ibises, starting with one 29 June and peaking with 7 on 26 Jul (GH, CC et al.). Single Green Herons were noted at Lethbridge, AB, 4–7 Jun (DD, TD et al.) and Ft. Whyte, Winnipeg, 26 July (KC).

Turkey Vulture nesting was confirmed at Medicine Hat, AB (MO); westerly birds were 2 at Chain Lakes P.P., AB, 11 Jun (JR et al.) and one at Calgary 20 Jul (GY et al.). Over 30 late Tundra Swans flew over Regina 11 Jun (TR). Six Cinnamon Teal were recorded in Saskatchewan and 4 in Manitoba; one male-plumaged bird was twice flushed from what proved to be an abandoned Mallard nest at Whitewater L. (AW, TW, RW, CC, GH). Rare in summer was a sub-adult male Surf Scoter at Reed L., SK, 7 Jul (WH). A female and 8 juv. Red-breasted Mergansers near Estuary 8 Jun (WH) add to scattered breeding records since 1979 in sw. Saskatchewan.

A Bald Eagle nest at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB, exemplifies this species' recent range extension out of the boreal forest. There were mixed reports on Swainson's Hawk, with improved productivity in e. Saskatchewan (SH) but not in the southwest of that province (WH). Banding records in Saskatchewan indicated good productivity for Cooper's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon, but not for Merlin (SH). Merlin numbers, however, continue to increase in much of the region.

CRANES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Sandhill Cranes accompanied one juvenile at Police Outpost P.P., AB, 4 Jun (PR). In Saskatchewan, single Snowy Plovers were observed at Chaplin L. 7 Jul (WH) and Opuntia L. 15 Jul (WR, GT, *fide* GW). Eleven Black-necked Stilts were reported in Saskatchewan: one at Chaplin Marsh 10 June (WH), 4 at Francis L. 11 Jun (SS, MW), and 6, including one on a nest, near Mossbank in both June and July (DS, *fide* TH); one at Whitewater L. 1–14 Jun (CCb, BdL, CC) was about the 7th for Manitoba.

A godwit concentration at Opuntia L. 15 Jul comprised 450 Hudsonian and 850 Marbled (WR, GT, *fide* GW); 47 Red Knots were tallied at Francis L. 11 Jun (SS, MW). Yet another rarity at Whitewater L. was a very approachable Western Sandpiper 28 Jul (AW, RW). Noteworthy concentrations there included 500 Semipalmated and 500+ White-rumped Sandpipers 11 Jun (DF), and 1000 Stilt Sandpipers and 2000 dowitchers 14 Jul (RW, AW). Reed L. hosted a mixed flock of 1300+ dowitchers, as well as 3200+ Wilson's and 1100+ Red-necked Phalaropes 30 Jul (WH).

A Parasitic Jaeger passed Whitewater L. 23 Jun (RB et al.). Single ad. **Laughing Gulls** at Lac du Bonnet 4 Jun (PT, RZ) and Holland 16 & 25 Jun (AW, BC et al.) were Manitoba's 7th and 8th. Unusual in summer was an ad. Thayer's Gull in Calgary 9 Jul (LB). Two Ross's Gulls spent most of the period at Churchill (m.ob.). Breeding Caspian Terns (14 adults, 10 immatures) at Reed L., SK, 20 Jul (WH) parallel the recent range expansion of this species in s. Alberta.

The (re)appearance of a second Eurasian Collared-Dove at Weyburn, SK, 14 Jul (JW, CB, MB) raised speculation about failed nesting. Rare in summer even at Churchill was a Snowy Owl 5 Jul (KG, RK et al.). Great Gray Owls were unusually prominent (for summer) in se. Manitoba, with at least 10 scattered daylight sightings. An astonishing 43 Long-eared Owl nests were found and 130 nestlings banded in the Saskatoon area (MS, MHo, SH); atypically, there was no corresponding concentration of Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. A Lewis's Woodpecker was seen in Calgary 9 Jun (TK). Single Red-headed Woodpeckers were at the fringe of their range in Medicine Hat 5 Jul (BV), Leader, SK, 8 Jun (WH), and Meadow Portage, MB, 20 Jun (PT). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers seemed more prominent than usual in agricultural Manitoba (KGa, PT), and nesting Red-naped Sapsuckers were unusually far east at Lethbridge, AB, in early July (D&TD).

PASSERINES

Rare in s. Alberta was a Great Crested Flycatcher at Wyndham-Carseland P.P. 7 Jun (JC); rare anywhere in the Region was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Cochrane, AB, 10–11 Jun (ph. DC et al.). A nesting pair of Yellow-throated Vireos was found near Roche Percee 4 Jun (BL), and one was near Macdowell, SK, 7 Jun (AS, EW). Val Marie in extreme sw. Saskatchewan was an unusual location for a singing Philadelphia Vireo 28 June (LdM). Horned Larks seem to be disappearing rapidly from much of agricultural Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Unusual so far onto the prairies, a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested near Taber, AB, in July (LB). At least 20 Eastern Bluebirds near Roche Percee 3 Jun (BL) was a good count for Saskatchewan.

Single Northern Mockingbirds appeared at Churchill 11 Jun (MWi), Ravenscrag, SK, 3 Jul (WH), and near Neepawa 7–8 Jul (RDe). Extralimital male Chestnut-sided Warblers in Alberta were at Police Outpost P.P. 4 Jun (PR), Fort McMurray 8–13 Jun (EG et al.), and Exshaw 23 Jun (GC et al.). Rarer were a Black-throated Blue Warbler e. of Canmore, AB, 7–12 Jun (RD) and another videotaped at Calgary 6–11 Jun (VS). Eighteen Yellow-breasted Chat records imply a fair population in Saskatchewan, especially in and near the Qu'Appelle Valley (m.ob.); an outlying western pair bred at Okotoks, AB (KL, ph. TK).

Unusual were two Western Tanagers at Weyburn, SK, 14 & 15 Jun (GD, *fide* CB). Alberta's 3rd **Green-tailed Towhee**, and 2nd of the year, graced a farm near Taber 27 Jul (LB). Two Spotted Towhees near Lauder, MB, 22 Jun (AW) were exactly where one occurred last year. Spotted and Eastern Towhees in the Qu'Appelle Valley seem to favor brushy northern slopes and moister, wooded southern slopes, respectively (BL, TH). A male **Field Sparrow** along Bryant Creek w. of Calgary 8 Jun (BW, HG et al., ph. DC, TK) furnished Alberta's first record; just 2 returned to their now-traditional Roche Percee. SK, site (BL et al.). A 7.5-mile roadside survey of the Laurier, SK, Community Pasture turned up a fine assortment of grassland birds, including 161 Baird's Sparrows (CB). Errant longspurs were a male Lapland near Flintstone L., MB, 6 Jun and a male Chestnut-collared near Seven Sisters Falls, MB, 3 Jul (both PT).

Two Northern Cardinals were at Medicine Hat 7 Jul (NM et al.). Hot on the heels of recent Saskatchewan sightings was Alberta's first **Painted Bunting**, a male at a feeder near Bowden, 19–24 Jul (GP, VP et al., † ph. to AB Provincial Museum). A "minor invasion" of Dickcissels was welcomed by Saskatchewan birders: at least 5 frequented an alfalfa field near Grassdale 2–12 Jul (CB, AS et al.) and one was near Coalfields 24 Jul (WH). Burgeoning num-

bers of Brewer's Blackbirds in parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba contrast with an apparent (and not entirely unwelcome) collapse of Common Grackle numbers in se. Manitoba. At least 21 sightings of Orchard Oriole attest to this species' consolidation in se. Saskatchewan. Rare even in sw. Saskatchewan was a Bullock's Oriole at Eastend 3 Jul (WH).

EXOTICS

A flamingo at Coldspring L., SK, 5 Jun (MSk) was later identified as Chilean (SS, LW).

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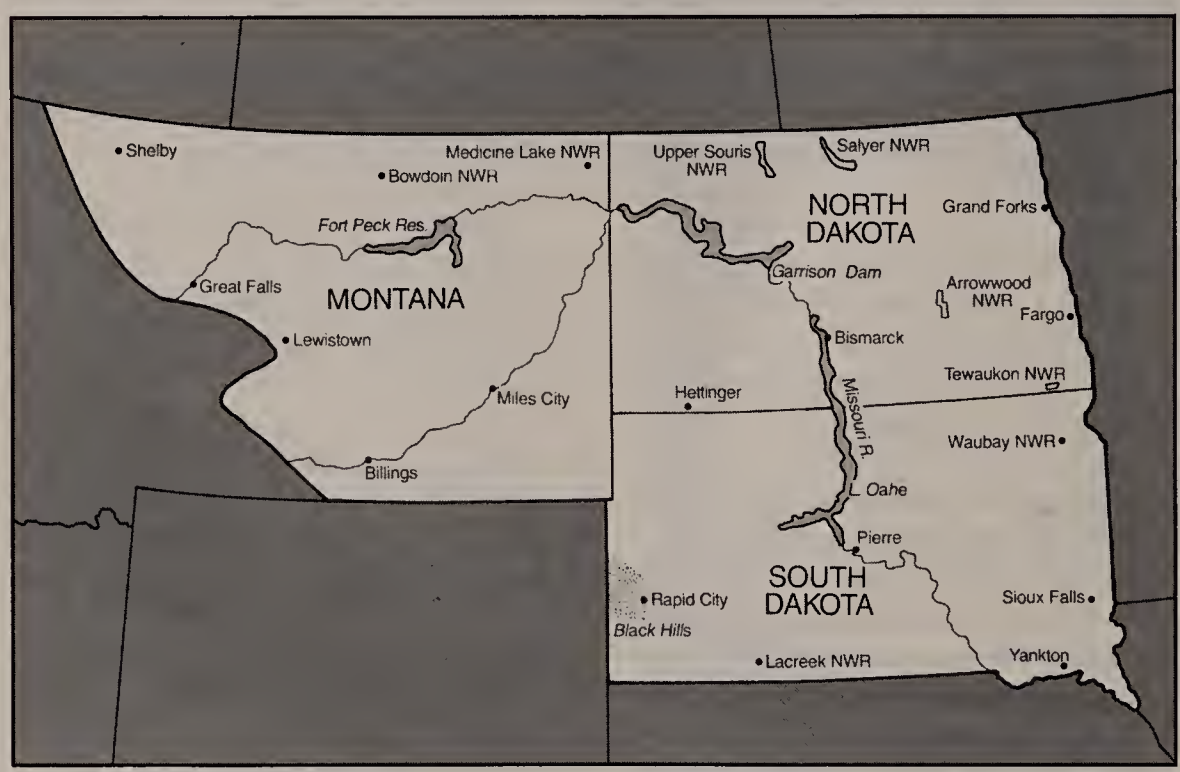
northern great plains



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June was wet and cool and July was hot and humid with average precipitation. After years of very high water levels, many areas finally saw some decreases, however, locally massive rains in some parts of eastern North Dakota kept levels up in those areas. For example, 12–14 June saw 17–19 in. (43–48 cm) of rainfall in western Grand Forks County, North Dakota. Waterbirds again had a very successful year, and migrant shorebirds made a strong showing. Numerous significant nesting records and range expansions were documented.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS

The explosion in numbers of large waders that began in the early 1990s continued unabated. Among the thousands of nests at Hecla, *Brown*, SD, were 240 Great Egret nests (DNS). Snowy Egrets were noted at five locations in North Dakota, and nesting was confirmed at Long L. N.W.R., *Burleigh*, a first for the refuge (KL). Tricolored Herons have been seen in South Dakota four of the last five years. This summer singles were in *Clark* 24 Jun (JSP, RFS) and *Brown* 15 Jul (RDO). Thousands of Cattle Egret nests were in the Hecla, SD, colony, and the now locally common species barely merits a mention in the eastern Dakotas.

A White-faced Ibis was unusual in *Stanley*, SD, 17 Jun (DB), and 30 nests were counted at the Hecla, SD, colony (REM). The species was noted from six locations in North Dakota, with a new breeding area documented at L. Alice N.W.R., *Ramsey* (JB). In Montana, four nests at Medicine L. N.W.R. were a first for the refuge (RS). If accepted, a **Glossy Ibis** at Hecla, SD, 1–15 Jul would be a first for the state (†KB). Turkey Vultures were unusually common in the Bowdoin area in Montana this summer, with a peak of 17 at Nelson Res. 27 Jul (SD).

A **Ross's Goose** in *Sully*, SD, 3 Jun and 3 Jul provided the first summer record for the state (RDO). A brood of Cinnamon Teal in *Grant* 2 Jul furnished the 3rd nesting record for North Dakota (REM). A **Long-tailed Duck** in *Grand Forks*, ND, 19 Jun provided the 2nd summer record for the state (EEF).

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Subject to review, a **White-tailed Kite** in *Stanley*, SD, 8 Jul would furnish the 3rd record for the state (†ME). A Sharp-shinned Hawk in *Stanley* 5 Jul was well east of known breeding areas in South Dakota (RDO). Cooper's Hawks, which began nesting commonly in North Dakota cities in the past decade, are now beginning to nest in open farm country in shelter-belts and single-row plantings. Murphy has now documented at least nine nests in this habitat. An adult Northern Goshawk 26 Jul in the Little Rockies, MT, was an unusual summer record (SD, AB).

A Red-shouldered Hawk in *Renville*, ND, 6 Jul provided the 17th record for the state (BM, BR). Furnishing the 2nd and

3rd summer records for North Dakota, **Rough-legged Hawks** were in *Kidder* 2 Jun (DNS) and *Sheridan* 11 Jun (REM). An adult Golden Eagle 26 Jun near Walhalla caused speculation of possible nesting in ne. North Dakota (DOL). The recent nesting of Merlins in North Dakota cities documented in previous columns continues to increase. First nests were documented this summer in Minot (REM) and Jamestown (LDI), and a nest was found in farm country in rural *Ward* in a single-row shelterbelt (BM).

Very rare in Montana, a Yellow Rail was far west at Bowdoin N.W.R. 25 Jul, in the same area where the species has been noted in the past (DP). Unusual in late June in South Dakota, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, and Hudsonian Godwit were all recorded 22 Jun in *Brown* (KB). A pair of nesting Black-necked Stilts were photographed 16 Jun in *Towner*, ND (RH, WM). This provided the 3rd breeding record for the state. A single Dinlin noted several times in July at Bowdoin, MT, was very unusual for summer (DP, SD, AB). An American Woodcock was west of its known range in *Hughes*, SD, 16 Jul (RDO).

GULLS THROUGH NIGHTJARS

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was documented at Devils Lake 26 Jun (†JHa). This furnished the 6th record for North Dakota and the second for summer. **Caspian Terns** have been increasing in recent years, and new nesting areas were recorded this year in all three states. An adult on a nest at Bowdoin, MT, 5 Jun provided a first refuge record (DP, KE, MG, PW). South Dakota's 2nd confirmed nesting was documented from Bitter L., *Day*, 22 Jun (KB). In North Dakota nesting was photographed at L. Alice N.W.R., the first nesting record away from the traditional L. William's area (JB, MC, WM). A large colony of 600 Common Terns was noted at Horsehead L., *Kidder*, ND, 2 Jun (DNS, REM). An Arctic Tern nest at Bowdoin, MT, 24 Jun hatched 3 young, but they quickly disappeared (SD, AB). A Least Tern nest was found at Medicine L. N.W.R., providing the first refuge record and the first nesting away from a major river in Montana (RS).

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was photographed at Ft. Peck, MT, 11-12 Jul (†CC), providing only the 2nd record for the Northern Great Plains portion of Montana. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in two locations in *Pembina*, ND, 17 & 26 Jun furnished the state's 7th and 8th records (†DOL). Present since the spring season, a pair was videotaped copulating in Dickinson, *Stark*, ND, during the season (SW).

Casual in Montana, a Barn Owl was s. of Malta 26 Jul (PW, MG). An adult **Barred Owl** with 3 begging young in *Richland*, ND, 7 Jul provided only the 2nd confirmed breeding record for the species, which is uncommon and local in the Sheyenne R. valley (†REM, CDE). Two adult **Chuck-will's-widows** with a recently fledged young were documented below Oahe Dam, SD, 4 Jul in the area where a bird was calling in May (†SL, DB, RDO). This provided the first nesting record for South Dakota and the region.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. 21 Jul was well west of normal breeding range (SSP, KLP). In Montana a Red-naped Sapsucker in the Little Rockies 16 Jul was east of known breeding areas (DP). A **Western Scrub-Jay** was photographed just east of Great Falls, MT, 30 May (†CM). If accepted, this would furnish the first record for Montana and the region. Summer Common Raven sightings in North Dakota are on the increase. This year a single was in *Stark* 8 Jul (HCT).

Two singing Brown Creepers in the Little Rockies, MT, 21 Jul indicated possible breeding east of their range in the state (SD, AB). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were feeding young 23 Jun at the Denbigh Experimental Forest, ND, for the 2nd confirmed nesting in the state (†REM). A **Sage Thrasher** in *Bowman*, ND 1 Jul provided about the 10th state record (†DAG, CG). An Orange-crowned Warbler in good habitat at Denbigh Experimental Forest, ND, 23 Jun was south of known breeding areas (REM), and a Yellow-breasted Chat singing in *Richland*, ND, 24 Jun was well out of range (SSP, KLP). There are no breeding records for the eastern half of North Dakota.

SPARROWS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A pair of Baird's Sparrows in *Ransom*, ND, 22 Jun was southeast of their present range (SSP, KLP). For the 3rd consecutive year, Henslow's Sparrows were found in North Dakota. Providing about the 18th and 19th records, up to 3 individuals were noted in two *Ransom* locations 20 Jun–10 Jul (SSP, KLP, DMS). A dependent young **White-throated Sparrow** in the International Peace Gardens, *Rolette*, ND, 22 Jul provided the 2nd state nesting record for the species, which is rare but regular in the Turtle Mts. (†REM, DNS). Furnishing the 5th summer record for South Dakota, a Harris's Sparrow was in *Charles Mix* 10 & 15 Jul (RM). Three Pink-sided Juncoes noted 3 Jul in the Little Rockies, MT, were e. of confirmed breeding range (DP). Prellwitz observed that numbers of McCown's Longspurs in the Bowdoin, MT, area continue to fall.

Casual in North Dakota, a Blue Grosbeak was at the Schnell Ranch, *Stark*, 8 Jul (JH). A major invasion of Dickcissels occurred in North Dakota, and the species was easily found in counties adjoining or south of I-94. Talkington recorded the species in 21 North Dakota counties. In Montana, the species was noted for the 2nd consecutive year: a bird e. of Colstrip was still being seen 15 Jul for the 17th Montana record. **Great-tailed Grackles** invaded se. North Dakota. With only one previous record, the species was noted at three locations in *Richland* and *Ransom* 21 Jun–15 Jul (SSP, KLP, SMS, DZ, †DMS). Up to 5 individuals were at one location, and nesting was strongly suspected. A few Lesser Goldfinches have been regular in the last decade, exclusively in *Fall River* in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota. This year the species was noted 13 Jun–4 Jul in *Butte* in the northern Black Hills (RAS).

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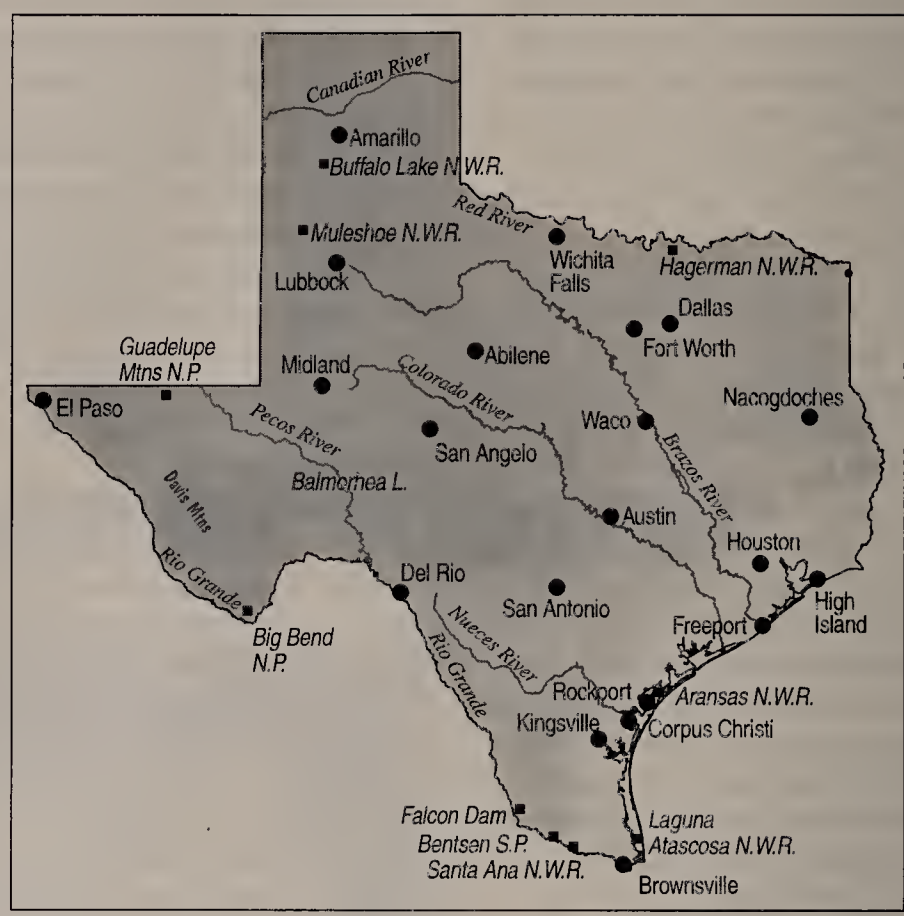

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Although there were some local rains in south central Texas in early June and some brief monsoon-season moisture in the west Texas mountains, the more common story across the entire state was of brutally hot and dry conditions. Drying ponds and lakes were the norm; no tropical weather arrived to ameliorate the severe conditions. Those low water levels had a large negative impact on waterbirds on the coast but provided concentrated foraging sites for large numbers of long-legged waders in the Panhandle. Reports of late northbound birds (both non-passerines and passerines) were well outnumbered by reports of early southbound migrants, and we suspect many of the latter were pushed out of nesting grounds by dry conditions beyond our boundaries. There were hints late in the season of significant post-breeding dispersal of waders inland in large numbers. Given the harsh—and worsening—conditions, it is all the more remarkable that we can report relatively positive nesting results for species of concern such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler, and no obvious serious losses among most species groups.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of Frances Williams in early September 2000. Frances was the Southern Great Plains editor for *American Birds* for many years when that region still included west and north Texas. Frances' help and guidance to all Texas observers over several decades is legendary, as was her insistence on the accuracy of reports. She will be dearly missed. This column is dedicated to her memory.

Abbreviations: L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.S.W.T.P. (South Side Water Treatment

Plant, *Dallas*); TBRC (Texas Bird Records Committee, Texas Ornithological Society); TPWD (Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Aransas, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Brazoria, Brazos Bend, Buffalo Lake, Dolan Falls, Guadalupe Mts., Hagerman, McFaddin, Packery Channel, Palo Dure Canyon, and Sabal Palms.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO

Noteworthy were the one or two Common Loons that remained through the season at L. Tawakoni (EW). A pair of Least Grebes in *Washington* provided a first county record 14 Jun–8 Jul (DB, C&MB); the pair built a nest and laid eggs but later abandoned the attempt. A pair of Clark's Grebes successfully nested at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, providing a 2nd nesting record for the state; Paton found 2 chicks on 2 June. Welborn made 18 trips through the summer to offshore waters from Port Aransas and had an array of pelagics: Cory's Shearwaters were routine in June and early July, while Audubon's Shearwaters were more frequent in July, with a maximum of six individuals. The only organized pelagic trip of the season originated out of Port Isabel 14 Jul. Those observers tallied 70 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, the most ever seen on a single Texas trip, but no other significant pelagic species were noted (BMc). An additional 7 Band-rumpeds were tallied by Welborn in July off *Nueces*, while a single bird was reported in Aransas Bay 6 Jul (RF). Quite rare in summer, two imm. Northern Gannets were found beached at Quintana, *Brazoria*, 13 Jun and 27 Jul (DS). The best pelican report was of an imm. Brown Pelican at Lubbock 23–25 Jun (BRa, CSt). A possible imm. Neotropic Cormorant at Buffalo L., *Randall*, 15 Jun († BaP et al.) was described in detail by six observers; to date there are no photographed records from the Panhandle. Numbers of nesting Double-crested Cormorants in the Panhandle continued to increase; 21 nests were found at Palo Duro L., *Hansford*, and 13 more nests were at Buffalo Lake (KS, BH). Two pairs of Snowy Egrets nested again this year at Buffalo L. (KS) and a Little Blue Heron at L. Rita Blanca 29 Jul provided a first for *Hartley* (EK, m.ob.). Numbers of nesting Roseate Spoonbills on the U.T.C. were thought to be down by as much as 75% (*fide* WBu). To date the only nesting record of Glossy Ibis in Texas is from 1997, however, 9 found near Indianola, *Calhoun*, 27 Jul (BrF) continue the trend of increasing summer reports. The largest number of Wood Storks reported during the season was 371 at Brazoria 15 Jul (WP). At least one of the **Greater Flamingoes** in *Aransas* reported in the spring was seen occasionally through at least 17 Jul (JW).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Muscovy Duck at Quemado, *Maverick*, 5 Jun (SS) exhibited wild plumage and behavior; this is well upriver from the known population in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Gadwall is a rare nester in the Panhandle, but a hen and three young were found 3 Jul at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson*, (KS) the same site where nesting was last observed in 1982. Small numbers of at least nine species of waterfowl summered in scattered locations statewide.

As a result of an ongoing study of Swallow-tailed Kites (TPWD), we are getting more reports from e. Texas: a pair of Swallow-taileds nested in Liberty behind the Wal-Mart during May and June (*fide* CSh, GSi). An imm. Mississippi Kite was an unusual find in San Antonio (KBa) 6 Jun. The only summer report of a Bald Eagle was in *Angelina* 7 Jul (LDe, GG, NBi). Two nests of Northern Harrier were successful in the Panhandle, one each in *Castro* and *Lamb* (CDL), and there were scattered sightings of individuals in other nearby counties (*fide* KS). Sharp-shinned Hawks at High I. 7 & 14 Jul were early migrants (PBo, WBu). Following up on a May report in the Limpia Cr. area, observers found at least one Gray Hawk 27 Jun along the creek outside Ft. Davis (EC). A nestling Common Black-Hawk at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend did not survive to fledge (*fide* MF). Of special note was a 2nd nesting pair of Common Black-Hawks for *Tom Green*, discovered 24 Jul, which successfully fledged young (TM). A bit n. of their usual range were 2 White-tailed Hawks seen in *Waller* 21 Jul (F & CC). Another good summer find was a Zone-tailed Hawk at Bentsen 18 Jul (MD). The presence of five pairs of American Kestrels hanging around power poles in *Dallas* was intriguing (KN). The species has nested in a variety of sites in that area for perhaps a decade, but this has not been well-documented (*fide* DHu, MWh). Another kestrel was noted in Wichita Falls 4 Jun–22 Jul (DMc). The Peregrine Fund and their partners released the 500th captive-raised Aplomado Falcon in Texas at Aransas 31 Jul. An Aplomado wandered e. to McFaddin, *Jefferson*, 7 Jul (TL). There were two early sightings of Peregrine Falcons in n. Texas: 15 Jul at Hagerman (LL) and 21 Jul at Cooper L. (MWh, BSt). A Prairie Falcon seen at the w. edge of Midland 19 Jul was well away from any known nesting area (BLu).

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

There were three interesting and early Sora records: single birds in *Randall* 8 Jul (two locations, LKJ, EK, BaP), *Tarrant* 14 Jul (SC), and at Anahuac on the coast 29 Jul (NBl). A Purple Gallinule was unexpected at Waco 29 Jun–1 Jul (FB). A Whooping Crane that failed to leave its winter range was seen wandering around Aransas Bay in July (*fide* TSt). Two American Golden-Plovers were late at Mitchell L., *Bexar*, 6 Jun and 16 Jul (*fide* GSc). During June, Lasley and Ditto had about 10 pairs of Wilson's Plovers nesting on a private ranch in w. *Kenedy* at least 25 mi from the coast (ph.); we are unaware of other nesting records this far inland. Based on the number of reports on TexBirds, there may have been a larger-than-usual influx of southbound Long-billed Curlews in early July. A wayward ad. Hudsonian Godwit was at Balmorhea L. 5 Jun (RR). A southbound Marbled Godwit was at bit early 14 Jul at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth* (JPa, BZ). A Red Knot 22 Jun at Bryan Beach, *Brazoria* (RWe), was among the rarer summer shorebirds, as were 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers at the same location 18 Jun (RWe, TC). Another interesting Semipalmated was at Ft. Hancock 14 Jul (JPa). Rare for summer was a Common Snipe in *Randall* 20 Jul (EK, RSc).

Pomarine Jaegers far outnumbered Parasitics in offshore waters (SW). The only semi-interesting gulls of the summer were single Laughing Gulls in the Panhandle in *Randall* 16 Jul (BaP) and in far w. Texas at McNary Res. 20–22 Jul (JPa, RR). A group of 25 Common Terns at Bryan Beach was a pretty good number on the coast 19 Jul (TC). Caspian Terns of note in w. Texas included 2 seen 17 Jun at Balmorhea L. (PH, BrF) and one 14 Jul at Ft. Hancock (JPa, BZ). Black Skimmers seemed to get a late start on nesting in *Brazoria*, putting late chicks in some environmental stress late in the season (*fide* RWe); only 300 fledglings were produced at one site compared with 900 last year.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A pair of Spotted Owls closely attended a

presumed nesting cavity in the Davis Mts. 22–30 Jun (JKa, MAd, PH, CS et al.), providing a 3rd record for the area, although no confirmation of breeding success was noted. A single Lesser Nighthawk on w. Galveston I. 7 Jun (JSt et al.) furnished one of few summer records for the U.T.C. A Chimney Swift was a nice find in far w. Texas 28 Jun in El Paso (RR). Details on a Green Violet-ear in w. *Travis* were submitted to the Texas Hummingbird Round-Up (organized by TPWD), providing the 4th county record (†TW). An imm. Broad-billed Hummingbird was in the Davis Mts., 13–30 Jul (M&ME, BLy). Well away from w. Texas was a **White-eared Hummingbird** photographed in Fredericksburg, *Gillespie*, 31 Jul–4 Aug (MM), providing about the 10th Texas record. Presumably the same **Berylline Hummingbird** documented in May in the Davis Mts. appeared at the same feeders 4 Jun and 12 Jul (M&ME). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird at Packery Channel, *Nueces*, 3 Jun (M&AC) was a rare record for the barrier island; 2 Buff-bellieds showed up for the 3rd year in *Washington* 5 Jul & 1 Aug (MEf). Lucifer Hummingbirds continue to be noted in increasing numbers in the Davis Mts.; a male performed courtship flights in June, and immature birds were seen at several locations in July (M&ME, KB et al.). Although most Calliope Hummingbirds arrived in w. Texas as much as three weeks late, one early bird was in El Paso 24 Jun (JPa). A female Green Kingfisher provided a first *Washington* record 16 Jun (Dvo).

Four years ago, we summarized the status of Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Texas (*Field Notes* 50:971). This year's survey shows an 8% increase in active clusters (342 total active clusters, 301 on federal and state lands and 41 on private lands). This increase is attributed to such management efforts as artificial cavities, translocations, and prescribed fire to maintain the open pine forest the species prefers (JR, *fide* CSh). Yellow-shafted Flickers nested at the edge of their expected range in Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire, *Harris* (FC) and in a fence post on the coastal prairie just outside Anahuac (DVe). A Northern Flicker was well away from any known breeding areas 31 Jul at Spicewood, *Burnet* (DY).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

Delivering on a promise to find the first **Dusky Flycatcher** nest in Texas, Ro Wauer and Kelly Bryan observed a male bringing food to a nest in a Gambel's Oak near the summit of Mt. Livermore 21 Jun. At least two more pairs were found around the summit, indicating a small but possibly regular population (CS et al.). The species had been found in the nesting season at this site in previous years, and there are older summer observations in the Guadalupe Mts. as well. A calling Gray Flycatcher at Buffalo L. 29 Jul provided only the 3rd record for the Panhandle (KS). Although the **Buff-breasted Flycatcher** male was refound on territory in the Davis Mts. in the spring, it took a while to confirm that the species was once again nesting. However, a female and newly constructed nest were discovered 2 Jul (KB, M&CL); a follow-up visit 5 Aug found two newly fledged young (ph. KB, JyP). This is just the 2nd nesting record for the state. Perhaps 30 miles e. of its regular range, a Black Phoebe was at Castroville, *Medina*, 22 Jun (GSc). An Eastern Phoebe pair was feeding fledglings at Buffalo L. 20 Jul, a first refuge nesting record (RSc); another nest was confirmed at Palo Duro Canyon 3 Jul, and yet another singing bird was in McBride Canyon, *Potter*, the same day (KS). Despite expectations that **Dusky-capped Flycatchers** would first be documented nesting in Texas in the Davis Mts., where sightings had accumulated in recent years, this landmark event instead occured in the Chisos Mts. of Big Bend. Nick Block watched a pair of Dusky-cappeds on the Laguna Meadow trail on 9 May carrying nest material into a cavity in a madrone; nestlings being fed by the adults were confirmed 23 Jun (BrF, PH). Two fledglings were subsequently reported through at least 28 Jul (m.ob.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was about one county east of the expected range at Benbrook L., *Tarrant*, 18–19 Jul (SCof, JWS). Three Great Kiskadees hung out at Pt. O'Connor all season and were suspected of nesting (BrF); this location is well away from typical haunts of this L.R.G.V. speciality. At the upper end of the L.R.G.V., a pair of Tropical Kingbirds were heard at Santa Margarita Ranch, *Starr*, 4 Jun (BMc); the pair at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground were nesting 5 May+ (JMu, m.ob.). A possible extralimital nesting attempt by Couch's Kingbirds occurred at Pt. O'Connor, *Calhoun*, 1 Jun–5 Jul (BrF). Despite being "within range", a pair of Western Kingbirds that nested at 6000 ft. in the Davis Mts. was unprecedented for that highland preserve (KB, BrF, m.ob.).

We had encouraging reports of Bell's Vireos in *Delta*, *Franklin*, *Harrison*, and *Lamar* in ne. Texas (m.ob.). Curiously, a Bell's Vireo was on w. Galveston I., 9 July, perhaps a first July record for the U.T.C. (JSt). Black-capped Vireos continued to show low rates of nest parasitism (<10%) at major colonies at Balcones Canyonlands and Ft. Hood, where cowbird control efforts continue (*fide* CS, PC). Several pairs of Warbling Vireos were at Dallas' White Rock L. and at L. Cleburne in *Johnson* (CE), the only known nesting sites in nc. Texas. Two rare singing Red-eyed Vireos were detected in the Panhandle: one at L. Marvin, *Hemphill*, 14 Jun and another at Palo Duro Canyon 24 Jul (both KS). Quite frustrating to these editors, not one bit of documentation was forwarded to us or the TBRC on a singing Yellow-green Vireo that spent the summer at Sabal Palms. This bird was apparently photographed, videotaped, and tape-recorded, seen by scores of observers, and widely reported on the Internet. The historical ornithological record for Texas, however, may not show that it ever occurred. There are only about 30 documented records for Texas.

CROWS THROUGH THRASHERS

Fish Crows summered at L. Tawakoni, *Raines/Van Zandt* for the 2nd time since 1996 (MWh). A massive roost of 50,000+ Purple Martins had built up in nw. San Antonio by late in the season (*fide* WS). Tree Swallows were found nesting at L. Sam Rayburn, *Nacogdoches*, for the first time. Adults were carrying nest material 21 Jun (DL) and were apparently incubating eggs 30 Jun (CDF); this is the southernmost known nesting. A Cave Swallow remained at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas* until 3 Jun (SCof). A small band of Bushtits at the upper end of Possum Kingdom Res., *Young*, 17 Jun may have provided a first county record and just about defines the edge of that species' range in n. Texas (KN). Perhaps a prelude of things to come was a very early Red-breasted Nuthatch in Amarillo, *Randall*, 24 Jul (RSc). Perhaps also early was a Marsh Wren in Midland 31 Jul (FR, RMS). Four Cactus Wrens were a bit north in *Oldham* 23 Jul (BaP, RSc). Two singing Clay-colored Robins in Roma, *Starr*, 17 Jul suggested possible nesting (PDH). An intriguing find was a Gray Catbird near Canyon, *Randall*, 11 Jun (ID). Equally eyebrow-raising was a pair of nesting Brown Thrashers in Midland feeding young on 3 Jul (BA). Apparently the Blue Mockingbird which first showed up on private property in Weslaco in spring 1999 has never left (*fide* MLi, m.ob.), although it has been difficult to observe. Whether or

not its sedentary nature is germane to the issue of wild vs. captive origin is a prime topic of speculation.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

Here we can summarize the tail end of the spring migration, some summering information, and lastly the beginning of the fall migration. A Magnolia Warbler in San Antonio 2 Jun was late (GSc), as were a Black-throated Blue on Galveston I. 1 Jun (NO) and a Hooded Warbler in Midland 2 Jun (SSt). The singing male Colima Warbler in the Davis Mts. proved to be elusive through June (JKa, KB et al); no pairing or nesting evidence was confirmed. Despite worsening drought conditions in the Hill Country, habitats received just enough moisture to allow Golden-cheeked Warblers a rather productive nesting season; young were numerous in early June at Balcones Canyonlands and at Friederick Park outside of San Antonio (CS, TR, m.ob.). Up to 3 territorial Yellow-throated Warblers were noted at Brazos Bend during June, apparently a first for the park (DH). Also on territory was a pair of Black-and-white Warblers in *Kent* on the South Plains through the season (TSo). There were sightings of Pine Warblers in stands of Loblolly Pine at four locations in late May–28 Jun in post-oak-dominated *Washington* (DV), where the species was unknown previously in the summer. Perhaps the best find of the season was Texas' 3rd **Slate-throated Redstart** found in the high Davis Mts. 21–25 Jun (MAd, JKa, BrF, et al.); this male was apparently singing on territory, at least for a short while (tape-recorded by KB, CS; ph. KB, MAd). Some aspects of its plumage suggested it might have been a second-year bird, which might preclude the possibility of it being the individual discovered at the same spot in 1997. Two singing Yellow-breasted Chats were at L. Meredith Recreation Area 3 Jul (KS). Following up on the Rufous-capped Warbler pair seen this spring at Dolan Falls, we learned from Karges that the last observation of the summer was 25 Jun, although nesting was not noted. To begin the fall migration, an imm. Yellow Warbler showed up in Lubbock 13 & 16 Jul (AF). By late in July reports of several other early southbound warblers were being posted with excitement on TexBirds.

The Merritts had both a Rose-breasted and a Black-headed Grosbeak in a mulberry tree at Midland 19 Jun, an unexpected dual sighting there. An Indigo Bunting at Guadalupe Mts., *Culbertson*, 15 Jun was a rare summer find, but it was trumped by as many as four nesting pairs in *Jeff Davis* through June (in Limpia Canyon and at the state park). The latter represented the first nesting records for the county in 42 years (*fide* PE). Singing Dickcissels were unexpected in Midland 10 & 30 Jul (D&JMe, FR, RMS). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were late in *Nacogdoches* 25 Jun (GH). A small colony of nesting Brewer's Blackbirds was discovered near the McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mts. 22 May (TG, EBr). Adults were feeding young 14 Jun (KB) and the birds were present into July (MAd), providing a 3rd Texas nesting record and the 2nd for these mountains. Two Bronzed Cowbirds in Lubbock throughout the season were a great if disheartening rarity (PK, m.ob.). A male Hooded Oriole on Galveston I. 19 Jul constituted a first summer record for the U.T.C. (JSt). House Finches were detected in a few more e. Texas counties, with single birds in *Harrison*, *Marion*, and *Smith* in July. Only the 2nd July sighting for the Panhandle was a Red Crossbill at Buffalo L. 19 Jul (BH, LG). Yet more intriguing July records up north included a Pine Siskin at a residence in Lubbock 11 Jul (JB) and an Evening Grosbeak in Amarillo, *Randall*, 27–28 Jul (B&NS). Another Evening Grosbeak was in *Marion* 24–25 Jun (WBa, SG), strange and early for deep e. Texas.

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The summer of 2000 was unusually hot and dry. Although June's weather was variable across the Region, most locations were very dry and much warmer than usual by late July. Late summer's extreme heat and drought conditions caused the rapid drawdown of lakes and reservoirs, and also initiated the worst wildfire season in 50 years. There were no specific data that indicated how these conditions affected nesting birds, but a few observers thought that nesting success seemed fairly normal. Receding water created vast mudflats at American Falls Reservoir and attracted truly amazing numbers of waders, shorebirds, and gulls, making this summer one of the most memorable birdwatching seasons there.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, Idaho); Camas (Camas N.W.R., *Jefferson*, ID); I.B.O. (Idaho Bird Observatory at Lucky Peak, near Boise, ID); Latilong (area encompassed by one° latitude and one° longitude, used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana); Lee Metcalf (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., *Ravalli*, MT).

LOONS THROUGH GULLS

Two Common Loons that summered at Minidoka N.W.R., *Blaine* & *Cassia* (SB), were especially unusual in s. Idaho. An estimated *650* American White Pelicans staged at A.F.R. 16 Jul (MCr), possibly Idaho's largest concentration ever. Great Egrets made news in both states. Singles strayed n. to Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID, 5 Jun (KC) and the Deer Lodge, MT, area, 5 Jun (WH), where they are seldom seen, and *43* tallied at A.F.R. 15 Jul (MCr) was a local record. White-faced Ibises also flew astray: 4–13 were at Mann L. 3–7 Jun (BJ), 2 stopped in *Custer*, ID, 9 Jun (D&EF), and one visited Lee Metcalf 9–13 Jun (WT). Record numbers of White-faced Ibises staged at A.F.R. in mid- to late July, with at least *20,000* there 30–31 Jul+ (MCr). Harlequin Ducks have been increasingly reported in the Missoula, MT, area in recent years, but a female with a fledgling there 27 Jul (WK, JM) represented the first verified breeding in 30 years.

A pair of Black-necked Stilts that wandered to Lee Metcalf 5 Jun (WT) was noteworthy because there is no confirmed breeding for this increasingly reported species in w. Montana. Rare shorebirds of the season included a Whimbrel at Missoula, MT, 1 Jun (LW), a Ruddy Turnstone at A.F.R. 23 Jul (DB), a Red Knot at A.F.R. 30 Jul (MCr), and Short-billed Dowitchers at Dry L., *Ada*, ID, 7 Jul (JA) and Mann L., ID, 19 Jul (BJ). *Calidrids* at A.F.R. swelled to unusually high numbers in early to mid-July; at least *6000* peeps staged there 16 Jul (MCr). Franklin's Gulls usually wander n. in small numbers, but this year up to *39* were at Mann L. 5–9 Jun (m.ob.), two were in *Idaho*, ID, 9 Jun (MK), and two visited Lee Metcalf 13 Jun (WT). Best gull of the season was a **Black-legged Kittiwake** in *Bonner* 8 Jun (ph. RB), providing Idaho's 6th record and was a first for Latilong 1.

PIGEONS THROUGH VIREOS

This was *the* year to see Band-tailed Pigeons, with 7 reports from n. and w. Idaho and 4 from w. Montana. The Region's Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo populations have dramatically declined from historic numbers, so any sightings are now considered noteworthy. The season's reports included a Black-billed in *Madison*, MT, 20–21 Jun (MB) and Yellow-billeds in *Custer*, ID, 24 Jun–2 Jul (D&EF, F&MZ), *Fremont*, ID, (*fide* CW), *Bingham*, ID, 25–26 Jun (MCr), and at Camas 9–10 Jul (GD). Best of all, a pair of Yellow-billeds with a fledgling reported in *Boise* 15–16 Jul (CS) provided a first confirmed breeding record for Latilong 17 and sw. Idaho. Like last year, swifts were reported at unusual locations. Two Black Swifts in *Valley*, ID, 12 Jun (BC) provided a first for Latilong 11, and Vaux's Swifts in Boise, ID, 20 Jun & 15 Jul (MC, FK, DT) were well s. of range. Especially unusual in summer was an Anna's Hummingbird in Boise, ID, 1–31 Jul (MC, FK). Another northbound wanderer was the White-headed Woodpecker in *Bonner* 19 Jul (EC); they are seldom reported in extreme n. Idaho.

As in recent years, there were scattered reports of Least Flycatchers in *Bonner*, *Custer*, and *Jefferson*, ID, where the *Empid* is rare and very local. More significantly, a female **Least Flycatcher** observed feeding nestlings at Kootenai N.W.R., *Bonner* 24 Jun (SR) provided the first verified breeding in Idaho. A brood-patched female **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** captured at I.B.O. 25 Jul (JC) was very interesting. Besides 5 caught at I.B.O. within the past year, there are no other verified reports of

this enigmatic species in Idaho. Idaho's 3rd **Cassin's Kingbird** in *Adams* 18–24 Jul (†BC) represented the first report of this species in eight years. Two reports of Plumbeous Vireos in the Boise area 1 Jun & 19 Jul (JC) were far w. of their known breeding range in se. Idaho.

WRENS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

Four Bewick's Wrens observed 4 Jul and another captured 14 Jul in *Oneida* were firsts for Latilong 26 (MCr, CT) and se. Idaho. Reports of Northern Mockingbirds in Idaho were about average, with a pair in *Bingham* 1–22 Jun (DB) and another in *Blaine* 4 Jul (WW). Idaho's 10th **Brown Thrasher** was at Camas 3 Jun (DB, MCr); they are now annual in e. Idaho. Bushtits observed near Boise, ID, 30 Jun & 9 Jul (CS, FV) were far n. of their usual range.

The rarest warblers of the season included a Tennessee Warbler in *Boise*, ID, 4 Jun (BK), a Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Jefferson*, ID, 8–10 Jun (BD, GR, CW), and an Ovenbird in Lolo, MT, 6 Jun (EG). Noteworthy Idaho Fringillids included a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in *Kootenai* 8 Jul (*fide* SS) and a pair of Blue Grosbeaks in *Twin Falls* 16 Jun (*fide* KF); both are now annual. Reports of Lark Buntings continued from e. Idaho, but one in *Elmore* 21 Jun (JB) was far west. The headline sparrow of the period was a well-described **Cassin's Sparrow** in sw. *Ada* 12–13 Jun (†JD) that furnished Idaho's 1st record. Brewer's Sparrows reported at Paradise Ridge, *Latah*, 24 Jul (KD) were interesting since there is no verified breeding for this species in n. Idaho. Single Black-throated Sparrows that visited n. *Ada*, ID, on 3, 7, & 13 Jun (JC, MC, FK) were unexpected, but the **Black-throated Sparrow** that wandered to the Helena Valley 17 Jun (GH, DSu, m.ob.) was Montana's 3rd. Because there is no Regional breeding record for White-throated Sparrow, a singing bird in Glacier N.P., MT, 20 Jun (SG) was noteworthy. In Idaho's Great-tailed Grackle news, a flock of 8 included 4 recently fledged young 7 Jul (GS) at their only consistent location, Marsing, *Owyhee*.

Arguably the best bird of the period was an imm. male **Hooded Oriole** in Meridian 1 Jun–31 Jul+ (RG, ph. ZN, †DT, m.ob.), which was a 1st for Idaho and the Region. An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** that graced *Bonner*, ID, 3–11 Jun (RB) was the state's 3rd, as well as a 1st for Latilong 1. Following last year's major White-winged Crossbill irruption, one bird in *Fremont*, ID, 6–7 Jun (CW) was the only report. Two Lesser Goldfinches in Caldwell, ID, 6 Jun (TE) were very unexpected, but the **Lesser Goldfinch** in Dillon 11–13 Jun (ph. SSh) provided Montana's 4th record.

CORRIGENDUM

The Red-shouldered Hawk reported in *N. Am. Birds* 54:77 was Idaho's 7th.

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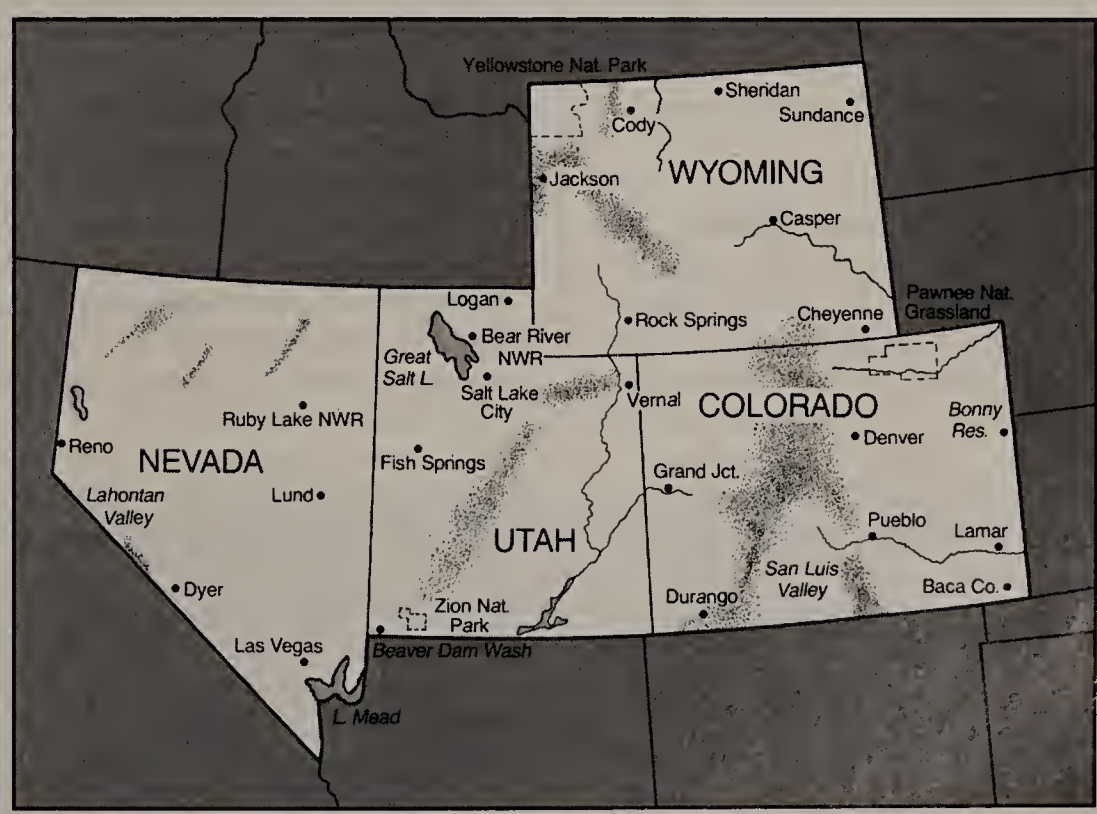
mountain west



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This is the last report for the four-state Mountain West Region; Utah and Nevada will become the Great Basin Region. We would like to thank the birders from Nevada and Utah who sent reports to us for this column.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

An alternate-plumaged Red-throated Loon was found in *El Paso*, CO, 5–8 Jun (AV), and a bird in basic plumage was in *Bent*, CO, 13 Jul (BKP, SC); these were the 2nd and 3rd summer sightings for Colorado. A Common Loon that summered at Dotsero, *Eagle* (JM), was the only one from w. Colorado; others appeared in e. Colorado as well. A Least Bittern was found in *Bent*, CO, 27 Jun (PEL); this species must be breeding in this area. An ad. Little Blue Heron was found in *Larimer*, CO, 8 Jun (SJD), and two adults and one calico bird were in *Adams*, CO, 22

Jun (CLW, TL); this species is rarely reported in summer in the state. A Cattle Egret was found in North Park, CO, 26 Jun (RCH, m.ob.), for a rare sighting from nc. CO. A Green Heron was found at Rawhide Creek W.M.A. near Torrington 28 Jun (PEL) for a rare Wyoming record. Green Herons were widely noted throughout the reporting period from Nevada (v.o.), but, as usual, breeding was not confirmed. A first-year Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was a rare find in *Bent*, CO, 18 Jun (DJ). Best among multiple Blue-winged Teals from Nevada were reports of confirmed breeding near Vya 27 Jun (JG, WG) and near Fallon 29 Jun (BH). Two Buffleheads lingered at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, NV, until 25 Jun (RSa). Surprising was a non-breeding pair of Barrow's Goldeneyes that spent the entire season in Canon City, *Fremont*, CO (ph. SM, J&RW), a first summer record for se. Colorado. A Hooded Merganser near Moapa, NV, 23 Jul (JBe) was unseasonal. A pair of Common Mergansers with one young were found in *Pueblo*, CO, 11 Jun (SM) for the first known nesting record for the county.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

A **White-tailed Kite** was a good find at Key Pittman Refuge, NV, 24 Jun (MS, TW); the bird was seen throughout the rest of the reporting period (v.o.). Red-shouldered Hawks were widespread in Nevada, and the species was confirmed as a breeder at Pahranagat N.W.R., NV, 24 Jun (MS, TW), a first for the Breeding Bird Atlas. A **Zone-tailed Hawk** found at Pahranagat N.W.R. 13 Jul (CT) was present through the rest of the period (v.o.). A Common Moorhen stayed in *Bent*, CO, 23 Jun–13 Jul (CLW, PEL); the bird was originally found in May. Sandhill Cranes were widely reported as breeders in northwestern Nevada (v.o.), well to the west of their usual breeding grounds; especially notable were breeders near Vya, NV (JG,WG) and Sheldon N.W.R., NV (RSt et al.). Some good shorebird habitat in the Goshen Hole area, *Goshen*, WY, 28 Jun, produced 3 Greater and 4 Lesser Yellowlegs, one Solitary Sandpiper, 2 Marbled Godwits, and 150 Wilson's Phalaropes (PEL). In Nevada, 2 Solitary Sandpipers were noted at Rancho San Rafael Park 10 Jul (FP), and single birds were at Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve 15 Jul (RPS) and at Illipah Res. 16 Jul (TF, TL). A Whimbrel was found on the Pawnee N.G., CO, during an ABA Convention field trip 2 Jul (BKP, MJ, vt. SEF), a rare mid-summer record. A Ruddy Turnstone was found in *Crowley*, CO, 8–11 Jun (BKP, SC, SO, DJ), for another rare summer record. Rare in Colorado, an ad. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in *Washington* 31 Jul (CLW). A Red Phalarope was at Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick/Logan*, CO, 19 Jul (CLW, JF). Rare at anytime of the year, a light-morph ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** was at Pueblo Res., CO, 29 Jun–7 Jul (DS, DJ, m.ob.). A first-alternate Laughing Gull was reported from *Bent*, CO, 7 Jul (CLW). California Gulls bred for the first time in *Larimer*, CO, with a nestling found 28 Jun (DAL). Accidental in Wyoming, an ad. **Least Tern** was at Springer L., "Goshen Hole," *Goshen*, WY, 28 Jun (PEL). Other out-of-place Least Terns included singles in *Huerfano*, CO, 16 Jun (DS) and in *Larimer*, CO, 26–28 Jun (BKP, RK, m.ob.); both were in first-summer plumage.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A northerly White-winged Dove remained at Corn Creek, NV, until 17 Jun (RPS). Rare White-wingeds (all singles) appeared at three Colorado locations: Campo, *Baca*, 24 Jun (CLW, PEL), Lamar, *Prowers*, 4 Jul (DN), and Salida, *Chaffee*, 6 Jul (NE). Up to 5 Inca Doves stayed at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, CO, throughout the summer (SO, m.ob.). A Black-billed Cuckoo appeared in *Grand*, CO, 11 Jun (TL, SB, PH) for a rare mountain record. Rare for Wyoming, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Rawhide Creek W.M.A., near Torrington, 28 Jun (PEL). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were widely noted in small numbers in southern Nevada, and there were even reports as far n. as Lamoille 22 Jul (BeC, BiC) and Rancho San Rafael Park 13 Jul (FP). A Vaux's Swift remained in Reno, NV, until 2 Jun (TF) and one was at Tahoe Meadows, NV, 24 Jun (GS). A **Chimney Swift** was reported from Dyer, 10 Jun (JBr, DT); if accepted by the Nevada Bird Records Committee, this would provide the first record for the state. Anna's Hummingbird continued its expansion in southern Nevada, with breeding confirmed at several locations (v.o.). Three Acorn Woodpeckers continued in Durango, CO, to 25 Jun (PEL, CLW), the only current location for the species in Colorado. Breeding Bird Atlas research showed Gilded Flicker to be a surprisingly widespread and common species in the yucca-tree forests near Searchlight, NV (v.o.). Rare in Colorado, single Alder Flycatchers were found in *Crowley* 4 Jun (BKP, MJ) and in *El Paso* 30 Jul (BM). Willow Flycatchers, perhaps of the endangered *extimus* subspecies, were widely noted in southern Nevada (v.o.). A singing Least Flycatcher, a rarity in w. Colorado, was at Delta 25 Jun (RCH). A small colony of "Western" (presumably Cordilleran) Flycatchers in the Spring Mountains, NV, in late June (TF et al.) was noteworthy, and a Hammond's Flycatcher at the same location 28 Jun (TF, NM) was also significant. One to three Black Phoebes stayed in *Pueblo*, CO, throughout most of the period (TL, MJ, m.ob.), the only sighting from eastern Colorado. An Eastern Phoebe wandered north to *Logan*, CO, 1 Jul (KS, m.ob.). Leatherman found a juv. female and an ad. male **Vermilion Flycatcher** in s. *Otero*, CO, 24 Jun (ph. DAL), the first successful breeding record for Colorado; the first nesting in May apparently failed. An amazing 25+ Vermilion Flycatchers were present throughout the period on a private ranch near Moapa, NV (BL, PS, et al.). Brown-crested Flycatchers were widely noted in southern Nevada, with a report from Torrance Ranch 27 Jul (KV) being somewhat northwesterly. Cassin's Kingbirds also were widely noted in s. Nevada, and breeding was confirmed at Corn Creek (v.o.). An Eastern Kingbird was found near Lamoille, NV, 17 Jul (TF, TL) and was subsequently found to be breeding (BeC, BiC), a first confirmation for the Breeding Bird Atlas. A male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher returned for the second year to *El Paso*, CO, 27 Jun+ (PEL), and a female was in *Pueblo*, CO, 1 Jul (DS), the only two reported this summer.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

A **White-eyed Vireo** was banded at Overton, NV, 8 Jun (MB) for the 3rd Nevada record this year. A singing White-eyed Vireo was in *Las Animas*, CO, 12 Jun (TL) for a rare Colorado summer record. The first sighting for w. Colorado of a Bell's Vireo occurred this season, with a singing bird at White R. below Kenney Res. Dam, *Rio Blanco*, 13 Jun (DF, RL). A Bell's at Dyer, NV, 10 Jun (JBr, DT) was northerly. A **Philadelphia Vireo** at Dyer, NV, 10 Jun (JBr, DT) would constitute only one of a handful of Nevada records, if accepted by the Nevada Bird Records Committee. Nevada's 2nd **Yellow-green Vireo** was found at Tonopah 24–27 Jun (JBr, GS). Rare in summer in Colorado, a Carolina Wren appeared again in *Boulder*, CO, in early July and stayed all month (BGh). The first documented Colorado summer record of **Winter Wren** was a singing bird at Rocky Mt. N.P. 1 Jul (WR, SW, m.ob.).

Winter Wren is at the periphery of its range in Nevada, so a report from Jarbidge 20 Jul (JL) was notable. Golden-crowned Kinglets were confirmed as breeders near Jarbidge (JL) for the first Breeding Bird Atlas confirmations for the species away from the Carson Range. A **Brown Thrasher** was at Torrance Ranch, NV, 27 Jul (KV). A **Sprague's Pipit** was documented on the outlandish date of 19 Jul from *Clark*, NV (CT, m.ob.); if accepted it will furnish the 2nd Nevada record. A Phainopepla at Red Mountain Creek, NV, 22 Jun (LN) was extralimital.

Late or summering stray warblers included a **Northern Parula** at Dinosaur N.M., UT, 23 Jun (RCH); a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Fallon, NV, 7 Jun (BH); a male Townsend's Warbler in *Yuma*, CO, 1 Jun (JR); an American Redstart at Corn Creek, NV, 10–11 Jun (v.o), two at Bodyfelt Ranch, NV, 10 Jun (JBr, DT), and one near Moapa, NV, 7 Jul (CT); a singing **Prairie Warbler** in *Baca*, CO, 6–10 Jun (DAL, m.ob.); single Black-and-white Warblers in *Prowers*, CO, 10 Jun (DAL) and in the Spring Mountains, NV, 11 Jun (TF et al.); a **Worm-eating Warbler** banded at Ruby Lake N.W.R., NV, 22 Jun (KV); an Ovenbird at Pahranagat N.W.R., NV, 24 Jun (MS,TW); and single **Hooded Warblers** at Miller's Rest Stop, NV, 9 Jun (JBr, DT) and in the Spring Mountains, NV, on the surprising date of 21 Jul (CT). For the third year, a pair of Hooded Warblers appeared in *Boulder*, CO (v.o.); it is not known if they bred again.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A singing male Hepatic Tanager found in *Las Animas*, CO, 3–24 June (CLW, PEL), provided the only report. Rare in Wyoming, at least 6 Cassin's Sparrows were singing in *Goshen*, WY, 28 (PEL) & 30 June (CLW, BKP). Breeding Bird Atlas research in the McCullough Mountains yielded at least 11 **Rufous-crowned Sparrows**—a species previously thought to be casual or accidental in Nevada. Lincoln's Sparrows were noted at several Carson Range, NV, locales (TL, KM et al.), but breeding could not be confirmed. White-crowned Sparrows lingered at several Mojave Desert, NV, locations into early July (v.o.). A male Chestnut-collared Longspur was found dead on a fence in *Baca*, CO, 6 Jun (ph. DAL); the species is not known to breed this far south in the state. An immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Corn Creek, NV, 11 Jun (TF et al.) and an adult male was in the McCullough Mountains, NV, 1–2 Jul (NM, KM). Indigo Buntings were widely noted in s. Nevada (v.o.) but there were no reports of confirmed breeding. Rare in Wyoming, 5 Dickcissels were near Table Mt. Wildlife area, *Goshen*, WY, 28 (PEL) & 30 Jun (CLW, BKP). A male Bobolink was found in *Fremont*, CO, 3 Jun (SM, J&RW), for a rare summer sighting in this part of the state. A Bobolink at Corn Creek, NV, 11 Jun (TF et al.) was unusual, and the species was found to be breeding in higher-than-expected numbers in the Elko area (v.o.). The long-time Tricolored Blackbird colony at Minden, NV, was down to just 1–2 birds (v.o.). Rare in Wyoming, a male Great-tailed Grackle was at Table Mountain Wildlife area, *Goshen* 28 Jun (PEL). Hooded Orioles strayed n. to several cen. Nevada locations (v.o.), with a bird at Fallon 14 Jun (BH) the most northerly. Pine Grosbeaks were widely noted in small numbers in the Carson Range, NV (TL et al.), whereas Red Crossbills were noted in good numbers throughout Nevada, including the lowlands (v.o.). A singing male and a female White-winged Crossbill were found in Rocky Mt. N.P. 1 Jul (WR, SW) for rare summer sightings for Colorado.

UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES: Short-billed Dowitchers from e. Colorado, Eastern Wood-Pewee from Chatfield Res., CO, and Le Conte's Sparrow from *Morgan*, CO.

Cited Observers: COLORADO: Jessie Barry, Sue Bonfield (SB), Bob Brown (BB), Bob & Lea Ann Brown (B&LB), Jenny Brumfield (JBr), Sherry Chapman (SC), Todd Dilley (TD), Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Dave Elwonger (DE), Norm Erthal (NE), Doug Faulkner (DF), Shawneen E. Finnegan (SEF), Joe Fontaine (JF), Beverly Gholson (BG), Tom Hablitzel (TH), Richard C. Hoyer (RCH), Paul Hurtado (PH), Mark Janos (MJ), Dave Johnson (DJ), Joey Kellner (JK), Loch Kilpatrick (LK), Rachel Kolokoff (RK), Nick Komar (NK), Paul E. Lehman (PEL), David A. Leatherman (DAL), Tony Leukering (TL), Rich Levad (RL), Bill Maynard (BM), Jack Merchant (JM), SeEtta Moss (SM), Duane Nelson (DN), Stan Oswald (SO), Brandon K. Percival (BKP), Joe Roller (JR), Will Russell (WR), Karleen Schofield (KS), David Silverman (DS), Alan Versaw (AV), Jim & Rosie Watts (J&RW), Sophie Webb (SW), Christoper L. Wood (CLW), John Yaeger (JY), Eric Zorawowicz (EZ). NEVADA: Jason Beason (JBe), Mike Boyles, John Brack (JBr), Graham Chisholm, Beth Clark (BeC), Bill Clark (BiC), Marian Cressman, Jim Cressman, Ted Floyd, Joel Geier, Wil Geier, Bill Henry, Stephanie Jentsch, Jim Lawrence, Tim Lenz, Bruce Lund, Karen McDonal, Neil McDonal, Larry Neel, Fred Peterson, Mike San Miguel, Rick P. Saval (RPS), Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Kei Sochi, Rose Strickland (RSt), Polly Sullivan, Jane Thompson, Carolyn Titus, Dennis Trousdale, Ken Voget, Tom Wurster. UTAH: Richard C. Hoyer (RCH), V.A. Smith. WYOMING: Paul E. Lehman, Christian E. Michelson (CEM), Brandon K. Percival, Christopher L. Wood.

Like many columbids, the Inca Dove has been expanding its range in the past few decades, particularly in southwestern North America. These birds at Rocky Ford, Colorado, 12 May 2000 were two of up to five present through the summer. ***Photograph by Tony Leukering.***

arizona

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The summer season began as one of the driest in years, and although the monsoon rains came early, they petered out just as fast, resulting in a drier-than-normal season, particularly in the southeastern portion of the state. The summer was difficult to characterize, but a number of interesting nesting records was found, including at least one new nesting species for the state (White-faced Ibis). Also of interest was Arizona's second-ever nesting pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, and the usual plethora of interesting nesting records found by the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas crew in northern Arizona. A few of the rarities reported previously were still present, including the Carolina Wren that is well into its second year! Of particular note is the recent expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove into Arizona; it was only a matter of time.

Abbreviations: H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); Li.C.R. (Little Colorado River); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); T.T.L. (Tempe Town L.); W.W.D. (White Water Draw).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A very early Common Loon at T.T.L. 26–30 Jul (DC, SG) furnished only the 2nd *Maricopa* July record; there are few records before October in s. Arizona. The Least Grebe first discovered 2 Jun at the Sweetwater Wetlands and reported in the spring report, remained through the period (m.ob., ph. MS). Four Brown Pelicans, about normal for an Arizona summer, were reported: one at Green Valley S.T.P. 8 Jul (*fide* MS), another at Apache Junction 25 Jul (T. Plunkett), and 2 at T.T.L. 26 Jul (DC, SG, M. Moore). Least Bitterns are rarely found away from known breeding areas in the southern part of the state, therefore, one at W.W.D. 25 Jul (BP) was noteworthy. Locally uncommon with few summer records, a Great Egret was at Kingfisher Pond along the upper San Pedro River 21 Jun (JW). This summer we received single reports for both Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, both casual visitors from the south. The Little Blue was at Willcox 3 Jun (GC, TS), whereas the Tricolored was found 27 Jul at the Nogales S.P. (BS).

This year the exciting news came from L.C.R.V. that **White-faced Ibis** had finally been confirmed nesting in Arizona, when B. Zaun and K. King (USFWS biologists) discovered a nesting colony 21 Jun within an island of bulrush at Cibola N.W.R. Although approximately 1500 ibises used this 40 x 40 m stand of bulrush as a nightly roost, only about 75 nests were observed. Most Wood Storks found in the state have been immature birds that wandered north from Mexico in late summer or early fall, so an adult found dead on the early date of 19 Jun n. of Tacna (L. Witaker, ph. LP) was unusual. A number of interesting ducks was found during the period, including a pair of Gadwalls with young at Nogales S.P. 17 Jul (JD), 2 American Wigeons at W.W.D. 30 Jun (MS), and another single at Nogales S.P. 17 Jul (JD). Two pairs of Blue-winged Teal were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 17 Jun (JH), 3 males were at W.W.D. 30 Jun (MS), and a single male was at Willcox 30 Jun (MS). This species is a casual summer visitor anywhere in s. Arizona. Two lingering Ring-necked Ducks were at Tucson 17 Jun–4 Jul (MS), and an early male Lesser Scaup at Green Valley S.P. was present 18–25 Jul (MS, BP).

Two Mississippi Kites were seen near Cascabel 11 Jul (B. Accord et al.); this is just south of where a pair had been established in the late 1990s. It is not known if this represents an expansion from the Dudleyville area, but it is heartening to know that the small population near Cascabel remains. Early migrant Northern Harriers were noted at a number of locations: one at W.W.D. 1 Jul (JS), one at Water Ranch Ponds, *Maricopa* 22 Jul (JB), 2 at Big Chino Valley 23 Jul (CT), an individual at Salome 28 Jul (RH), and another at Granite Creek, *Yavapai*, 31 Jul (CT). The two *Maricopa* records are the first ever for July. Unusual was a Northern Goshawk seen at a lower-than-normal elevation and out of its preferred pine forest habitat at Harshaw Creek road 16 Jun (JBo). The second confirmed nesting of **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Arizona was discovered this summer at the Hassayampa River Preserve (J. Driscoll, R. Glinski). Unfortunately, by 10 Jul, after more than a month of incubation, it was obvious the nest would fail. The only other previous nesting in the state was along the Colorado River (Mittry Lake) in 1970. Swainson's Hawks were found nesting ne. of Winslow 27 Jun (CL, BW); only a few old records exist for this area. Another pair was found at Polacca Wash, Hopi Tribal Lands, 2 Jul (CL, BW), another new nesting location. A Zone-tailed Hawk nest was discovered 4 Jun (TC) at the Big Springs Work Center, *Coconino*, a site that had apparently been occupied for a few years but that had gone unreported. This is the only known nest on the Kaibab Plateau. A Crested Caracara, east of its known range, was reported at Douglas 3 Jun (C. Nishida).

Small populations of Chukar persist in Arizona, largely in the n. and w. reaches of the Kaibab Plateau and on Black Mesa. This year individuals or small coveys were found in Paria Canyon 7 Jun (TD), Cataract Canyon 2 & 29 Jul (SA), and on the e. slope of Black Mesa 17 Jul (TD). Scaled Quail appears to be a little more widespread in the Li.C.R. drainage in *Navajo* and *Apache* than prior literature has suggested. They were noted w. of the Petrefied Forest N.P. 20 Jun (TD, LAM), ne. of Hunt 21 Jun (SA, CW), nw. of Chambers 21 Jun (BT, BW), e. of Saint Johns 14 Jul (TC), and n. of St. Joseph City 11 Aug (BW, TD). A remnant population of California Quail, first released in Arizona during the 1960s and as yet not accepted on the state list, also survives. This year coveys were regularly noted in remote areas of the upper Li.C.R. and below Lyman Lake (B. Heap), where an individual was heard calling 15 Jul (TC).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The only report of Snowy Plover we received was of 2 at the Water Ranch Ponds 27 Jul (SG). Early shorebirds included a Marbled Godwit found at W.W.D. 19 Jun (D. Flower), with another or the same one there 30 Jun (MS), single Stilt Sandpipers at Willcox 22 Jul (BP) and Sunrise Lake 28 Jul (RMJ), and Short-billed Dowitchers at W.W.D. 16 Jul (J. Mueller, P. Saloman) and Willcox 28 Jul (RT). A Common Snipe was a month early at Yuma 29 Jul (DT). Southbound Wilson's Phalarope can arrive in Arizona by mid-June, most often adult females. Therefore, a report of 3 pairs, with one pair tending a juvenile, from Ganado Lake 13–14 Jun (TM, TC) was interesting. Casual in Arizona, an adult Laughing Gull in breeding plumage was at W.W.D. 8 Jun (*fide* J. Hand). Other seasonal gull reports were a Franklin's Gull at Willcox 15 Jun (RT) and 3 ad. California Gulls at Reid Park, Tucson, 3–9 Jul (MS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove definitely arrived in Arizona this year; one was at Snowflake 5 Jul (JBo, DS) and 2 were at Roper Lake S.P. 22–23 Jul (J. Williams, B. Metheny, JD). The Ruddy Ground-Dove that spent last winter in a Phoenix yard continued throughout the summer (S. Martin). A Greater Roadrunner nest found 28 Jul at Page (CLa) is the first confirmed breeding for the region. Three Vaux's Swifts at South Fork of Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mts. 27 Jul (DJ) were more than a month early. A male White-eared Hummingbird spent the summer at the Beatty's in Miller Canyon (T. Beatty, m.ob.). Berylline Hummingbirds were noted in Whitetail Canyon in the Chiricahua Mts. 27–30 Jul (DJ) and in their more usual haunts in both Miller and Ramsey Canyons of the Huachuca Mts. (m.ob.). Nesting was documented twice in Ramsey Canyon, where a female Berylline built a second nest after the first was destroyed by a storm. A casual visitor to the state, a male Eared Trogon was discovered in South Fork 28 Jul (*fide* DJ). A Belted Kingfisher near Pinetop 14 Jul (TC) added to the growing number of summer records above the Mogollon Plateau. Acorn Woodpeckers continued to be present at lower-than-normal elevations this summer. One was found at Tucson 13 Jun (GH), and at least 2 were still at the Arizona State University campus throughout the period, with nesting behavior noted.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

An ad. Dusky Flycatcher was observed feeding a fledgling in the southern Hualapai Mtns 27 Jul (PF), the first confirmed breeding record from this mountain range for the Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas. An adult Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher seen and heard along a sycamore-lined creek in the southern Pinaleno Mts. near Stocton Pass 1 Jul (TC), provided one of few records of this species from this under-birded mountain range. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds nested at Quitobaquito, Organ Pipe N.M., 24 May–30 Jun+ (ph. T. Tibbitts), the species' most southwesterly nesting in the state. A Thick-billed Kingbird at the entrance to Skeleton Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., 6–13 Jun (DJa) provided what was probably the first record from this mountain range away from the Portal area. Another pair was present most of the period at Kino Springs near Nogales (RH), where the species has been found only sporadically. An Eastern Kingbird was found on the L. Havasu N.W.R. 26 Jul (S. Goodchild); the number of reports has decreased during the past decade, and it is now considered only casual as opposed to a rare but regular migrant.

A **White-eyed Vireo** was found singing at the Florida Work Station in Florida Wash, Santa Rita Mts., 23 Jul–31 Jul+ (W. Leitner), providing about a 13th state record. A Hutton's Vireo found in proper habitat along the New Mexico border se. of Springerville (TC) provided what was likely a first *Apache* record; this species has been found a bit farther south and likely breeds on the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation. Red-eyed Vireo reports included one at Whitlow Dam 15 Jun (J. Bartley *fide* JWi) and one along the upper S.P.R. near Hwy 90 on 12 Jul (S. Burlow *fide* DKr); caution should be used when identifying this species in Arizona during the summer, as the similar Yellow-green Vireo can be dull in appearance and seem similar to a Red-eyed (as was the case with the summer 1999 bird at Patagonia). A real **Yellow-green Vireo** was found along Harshaw Canyon (Rocking Chair Ranch section) 18 Jun–31 Jul+ (JHa, C. Smith, m.ob.), providing what will be only a 6th Arizona record; interestingly, five of the six state records were from June or July, as opposed to most California records, which have mainly occurred later in the fall.

An early Bank Swallow was at W.W.D. 25 Jul (B. Percival). The **Carolina Wren** that was found during the summer of 1999 near Dudleyville along the lower S.P.R. was still present at the end of the season. Amazingly, Winter Wren may be fairly widespread as a breeding bird in wet drainages of the Mogollon Rim ne. of Payson. Breeding was confirmed last year (adults carrying food), and 2 different birds were found this year in Canyon Creek upstream from the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery 12 Jul (C. Wise), marking the 3rd canyon in the area to have Winter Wrens during the summer. The closest known breeding area to Arizona is northern California, but summering individuals have been reported recently from the Jemez Mts. in northern New Mexico (*fide* W. Howe). A juv. American Dipper reported from the spillway of Parker Dam 25 Jul (R. Higson) represented only the second report from the L.C.R.V., and one of the few lowland reports for the state. A pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** were present in Chino Canyon mid-Jul+ (JLD et al.); a female had been present here for at least a few years, as well as a presumed hybrid male, therefore the presence of a non-controversial male at this location is of great interest.

WARBLERS THROUGH MEADOWLARKS

A female Northern Parula reported from along the upper S.P.R. near the Hwy 90 bridge 23 Jul (*fide* SGa) would represent only a second local summer report. Outstanding, particularly for northern Arizona, was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Cameron 13–16 Jun (CL); there were only about 20 previous records for the state. A female American Redstart at Arivaca Cienega 21 Jun (MS) provided one of the few late June records for se. Arizona. A Worm-eating Warbler at Tumacacori 1 Jul (B. Powell) furnished what was only the 2nd July record for the se. portion of the state. A Wilson's Warbler at Cameron 23 Jun (CL) was late. The Rufous-capped Warbler that was found in French Joe Canyon during the winter season was present throughout the period (m.ob.).

Three Green-tailed Towhees were still present at Portal 30 Jun (DJ), representing the latest "spring" record for se. Arizona. A Cassin's Sparrow e. of St. Johns 14 Jul (TC) furnished one of the few *Apache* records and was well n. of this species' normal distribution in the state. A pair of Black-chinned Sparrows near Pipe Springs N.M. 2 Jun (B. Thatcher) was north of this species' known distribution in Arizona; there are breeding records for Black-chinneds from nearby Zion N.P. in southwestern Utah. A number of singing Sage Sparrows southwest of Grand Canyon Village (South Rim) 11 Jun (LAM, CW) was well west of this species' previously known breeding range in the state. A very late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Cameron 10 Jun (CL).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Prescott 6 Jun (M. Dunn), near Watson L. 6 Jun (K. Wingert), at French Joe Canyon 8 Jun (S. Healy), and at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson 23 Jun (MS); this species is rare but regular through most of Arizona in June. A male Varied Bunting at Whitlow Dam 8 Jun (J. Bartley) was well n. of its normal breeding range in Arizona, but there have been a few other summer reports from nearby Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Two Painted Buntings were at Kino Springs 29 Jul (JBu); this species seems to be regular in the Nogales area in late July and early August. Multiple calling Eastern Meadowlarks near Truxton, *Mohave*, 31 Jul (S. Ames, PF) provided additional proof that this species is a regular breeder in the northwest portion of the state.

CORRIGENDA

The location of the Arizona (Strickland's) Woodpecker reported from ne. of Carefree, *Maricopa* (*N. Am. Birds 54:84*) should be changed to se. Galiuro Mountains, *Pinal*.

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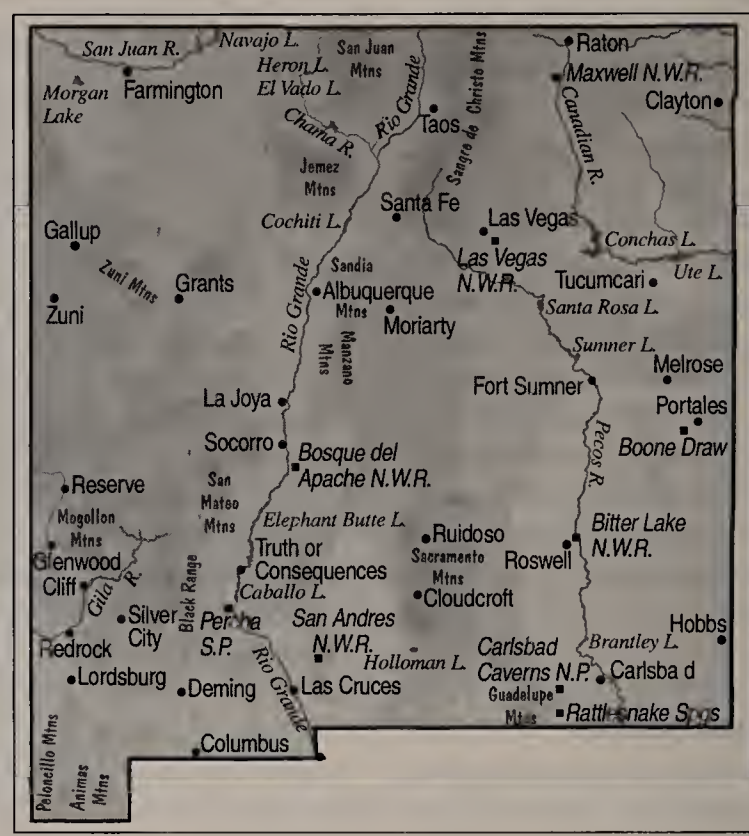
new mexico



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Summer 2000 was a season of contrasts, with generally dry conditions broken occasionally by intense local storms, while forest and range fires continued to complicate life for birds and birders. Nevertheless, serious work toward documenting breeding birds proceeded on several fronts, and a new species was added to the state list.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R.); N.R.T. (north *Roosevelt* migrant trap near Melrose); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs, *Eddy*); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Always noteworthy in summer, single Common Loons were at Nutria L. 3 Jun (DC) and Bill Evans L. 7 Jul (GE). The Jicarilla Indian Reservation's Stinking (Burford) L. is a vital Eared Grebe nesting locale, but this year the lake was dry and abandoned by grebes and other waterbirds. Elsewhere, up to 250 Eared Grebe nests were at Horse L. 23 Jun (DS), and a second wave of nesting there had 120 nests 21 Jul (DS); farther east, 20 Eared nests at Maxwell 18 Jun (DC) furnished a new breeding locale. Western Grebes likewise abandoned Stinking L.; a Western nest plus 4 broods at Mundo L. 22 Jun (DS) furnished a local first, and 8 nests were at Horse L. 21 Jul (DS). Clark's Grebes found Stubblefield L. to their liking, with 5 nests there 20–21 Jun (ph. DC) and 20 nests 16 Jul (CR). A Great Egret n. to Springer L. 26 Jun–16 Jul (SOW, JP, CR) provided a local first; 3 were n. in the R.G.V. to La Joya 30 Jul (BV), while 20 provided a Pecos Valley high at B.L.N.W.R. 7 Jul (GW). Seven Snowy Egret nests at Holloman L. (HR) furnished a Tularosa Basin first. Rare but regular herons included single ad. Little Blues near Los Lunas 29 Jun (DS) and at Bosque 10 Jun (JP, JO), and a Tricolored at B.L.N.W.R. 14–25 Jun (JWM, GW). A **Reddish Egret** at B.L.N.W.R. 10–29 Jul (GW, JP, ph. JO) furnished the state's 9th well-documented record. **White Ibises** made news, with 2 adults at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Jun (JBM) and another at L.V.N.W.R. 15–17 Jul (JP et al., vt. JO). White-faced Ibises failed to nest at any of their known breeding locales. Lingering ducks included 5 Ring-neckeds at B.L.N.W.R. (GW) and one at Percha (GE) 2 Jun, a Lesser Scaup at Zuni 8 Jun (DC), and a Bufflehead at Nutria L. 12 Jun (DC). Unusual for *Luna* was a female Common

Merganser consorting with a male Mexican Duck on the lower Mimbres R. 10 Jun (SOW, PM). The breeding population of Ospreys in n. New Mexico increased to 7 pairs; 4 nests successfully produced 8 young, but the other 3 nests failed (DS). Noteworthy were one Osprey at Eagle Nest L. 26 Jun (PL) and 2 at Quemado L. 13 Jul (DS). Mississippi Kites made news in the middle R.G.V., with a nest at Corrales 26 Jun (J. Findley), plus singles at Los Lunas 30 Jul (BV) and Bosque 16 Jun (BV). All 3 Bald Eagle nests in *Colfax* were successful, fledging a total of 5 young June–July (SOW, PM). Often overlooked in summer, Northern Harriers suggestive of local breeding were 2 at B.L.N.W.R. 8 Jun (WH) and singles at Maxwell 2 Jul (JT) and near Ft. Sumner 2 Jun (SOW). Surprising was an ad. **Gray Hawk** in New Mexico's Guadalupe Canyon 25 Jul (WW); even more surprising was a nest with a large nestling just across the Arizona line (WW). Common Black-Hawks expanded their eastern beachhead in the Hondo and Pecos drainages, with a successful nest on the Rio Bonito at Ft. Stanton (N&SC), plus an adult seen downstream beyond Lincoln 30 Jul (JP, JO); at Santa Rosa, 2 adults exchanged prey that was taken to a likely nest 25 Jun (MB). Perhaps a first for the Tularosa Basin was a Harris's Hawk nest s. of Alamogordo (HR). A Zone-tailed Hawk on the Mimbres R., *Luna*, 9 Jun (SOW, PM, P. Russell) furnished a local first. Tantalizing, but unverified, was a report of 2 possible Crested Caracaras s. of Socorro 23 Jun (J. Kretzman).

PTARMIGAN THROUGH TERNS

Helicopter surveys for Bighorn Sheep in the Pecos Wilderness also produced 6 White-tailed Ptarmigan at 3 sites near Jicarita Peak 14 Jul (ER). Montezuma Quail continued in evidence, including 1–3 at Ft. Stanton 5–30 Jul (WW, JP, ph. JO). Virginia Rails summered at Guadalupita, *Mora*, including 5 on 21 Jun (SOW, PM). Late was a Black-bellied Plover heard over Luis Lopez, *Socorro*, 7 Jun (JO). Snowy Plovers had a good season, including first breeding at E.B.L., where present June–July (JP, JO), and with a high of 21 including 2 broods 29 Jul (CR); elsewhere, up to 6 Snowies were at Bosque 10–16 Jun (JP, JO, NV), and successful nesting occurred at Holloman L. (HR); some 250 were at B.L.N.W.R. 2 Jun and 7 Jul (GW). Late was a Semipalmated Plover at Bosque 16 Jun (NV); early was one at Maxwell 16 Jul (CR). Thirty Mountain Plovers were early at Los Lunas 22 Jul (JP). Mid-summer Willets included 1–3 at E.B.L. 30 Jun–1 Jul (JO, JP, DE, BN) and 6 at B.L.N.W.R. 23 Jun (GW); mid-summer Marbled Godwits included one at Maxwell 26 Jun (PL) and 1–2 at B.L.N.W.R. 20–22 Jun (JWM), plus 7 there 7 Jul (JO). White-rumped Sandpipers were well-represented at B.L.N.W.R., with 50–70 on 3–4 Jun (DE, BN, JO) and 18 there 9 Jun (GW); farther w. were 3 near Pastura, *Guadalupe*, 4 Jun (WH) and one at E.B.L. 10 Jun (JP, JO). Common Snipe summered in *Mora's* wet pastures, with 12 at Guadalupita 21 Jun and 12 Jul (SOW, PM) and 2 near Mora 8 Jul (DS); others winnowing in suitable habitat were 3 at Angel Fire 17 Jun (CR), 2 at Pecos 18 Jun (CR), and one near Canjilon L. 27 Jun (JO). Southbound Wilson's Phalaropes were conspicuous by the fourth week of June, including 20 at Deming 21 Jun (LM) and 227 at B.L.N.W.R. 23 Jun (GW), where there was also a Red-necked 4 Jul (JWM). An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** put in an unexpected appearance at Stubblefield L. 26–27 Jun (PL, WW); there are but 7 previous state records. Almost as surprising was a **Laughing Gull** at B.L.N.W.R. 14 Jun (JWM), while the gull of the season was a **Western Gull** in apparent second-summer plumage at E.B.L. 30 Jun–1 Aug (JP, DE, BN, ph. JO), which furnished the state's 3rd credible report. Single ad. Common Terns wandered to B.L.N.W.R. 21 Jun (JWM) and Stubblefield L. 15 Jul (CR). Endangered Least Terns did well at B.L.N.W.R., where 10 pairs had 9 successful nests and fledged 15 chicks (JBM).

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Dry conditions may explain the presence of 175 Band-tailed Pigeons on the Mimbres R., *Luna*, 11 Jun (SOW, PM); others below nesting elevations included 2 each at Quarai 9 Jul (NV) and Mangas 7 Jul (GE) and 6 in P.O. Canyon 20 Jul (ER). Apparently now well-established in the east, with reports this season from Ft. Sumner, Roswell, Carlsbad, Lovington, and Eunice (v.o.), the advancing Eurasian Collared-Dove tide was evident in the R.G.V., with one at Luis Lopez 2 Jun–31 Jul (JO et al.) and 2 at Belen 19 Jul (ph. JO); most westerly yet was one at Lordsburg 1 Jul (ph. JO). An Inca Dove was north to nw. Albuquerque 2 Jul (BV). Common Ground-Doves had their best season in decades, with 1–3 birds (often vocal males) at 7 *Grant* and *Hidalgo* sites June–July, including Mangas (GE), Bill Evans L. (DE, BN), Redrock (JP, JO, WW), middle Animas Valley (SOW, PM), and Guadalupe Canyon (SOW). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in the e. in the Canadian, Pecos, Hondo, and Rio Grande drainages, including 5 at Bosque Redondo 3 Jun (JP); in the w. were one at Zuni 7–26 Jun (ph. DC), 14 nests plus 2 additional broods along the Gila R. (SS), 2 on the lower Mimbres R. 6 Jul (SOW, PM), and one on Berrenda Cr. 22 Jun (CR). Two Barn Owl nests on Perico Cr., *Union*, each had nestlings 22 Jun (HS). Elf Owls persisted in the se., with one heard in Last Chance Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., 16 Jul (SW, RW). Astounding were 3 possible **Short-eared Owls** in "native bunchgrass prairie" near Clovis 17 Jun (MB); the species is not known to summer in New Mexico. A Boreal Owl was on Canjilon Mt. 14 Jul (J. Taylor), where first documented in 1988. Early was a Black Swift on a Jemez Mts. nest 4 Jul (JP); elsewhere, 3 were foraging over Sargent W.M.A. near Chama 8 Jul (CR). Far e. were 4 White-throated Swifts at the Mosquero breaks, *Harding*, 11 Jun (CR). A female **White-eared Hummingbird** provided a *Catron* first at Mogollon 23–28 Jul (JO, WW, DE). Other hummers of note were singing Violet-crowneds at 3 territories in Guadalupe Canyon 13–15 Jun (SOW), a female Blue-throated at Mogollon 23 Jul (WW), 2–6 Magnificents at Mogollon 2–27 Jul (JP, JO, WW), plus 1–2 on Sapillo Cr., *Grant*, 8 Jun (LM) and 23 Jul (JO), and a late male Broad-tailed e. to N.R.T. 4 Jun (CR). The earliest Calliope was a male at Nogal, *Lincoln*, 9 Jul (JO); the earliest Rufous was a male at Eldorado 25 Jun (BF). Previously unconfirmed in New Mexico, a young male **Allen's Hummingbird** was banded on Sapillo Cr. 28 Jul (J. Day-Martin, ph. F. Bassett; diagnostic retrices retained). Noteworthy woodpecker records included a Red-headed carrying food to a cottonwood cavity on Ute Cr., *Harding*, 11 Jun (CR); Williamson's Sapsucker nesting at Angel Fire 17 Jun (CR); ad. Downies feeding fledglings at Coyote Creek S.P. 7 Jul (DS); and a female Yellow-shafted Flicker at Perico Cr. 22 Jun (HS). Northern Beardless-Tyrannulets persisted in Guadalupe Canyon, where there were 2 territories 14–15 Jun (SOW). Near the n. fringe of the range was a Greater Pewee on South Fork Negrito Cr., *Catron*, 18 Jun (JO). There was both good and bad news for endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatchers: expanded surveys along Coyote Cr. near Guadalupita documented 17 territories (the largest aggregation in n. New Mexico),

including active nests 21 Jun and 12 Jul (SOW, PM); at San Juan Pueblo, the largest site in the upper R.G.V., 16 territories and 8 nests were located June–July (DS); in the Cliff-Gila Valley, however, which harbors the largest population of this taxon rangewide, numbers declined by some 40% (SS, D. Finch). Gray Flycatchers continued to thrive, with reports from 15 locales from *San Juan* and *Taos* s. to *Otero*, including 3 nests in *San Juan* 15–22 Jun (TR) and highs of 5 birds near Ojo Sarco 24 Jun (JP), 13 on Rowe Mesa 18 Jun (CR), and 6 near Piñon 9 Jun (WH); unusual was one at Spring Canyon S.P., Florida Mts., 10 Jun (LM). Summering Dusky Flycatchers were at two new sites in the Zuni Mts. 13 Jun (HS); far s. was one singing in suitable habitat near Cloudcroft 18 Jun (WH). Noteworthy was a Vermilion Flycatcher at Carrizozo 30 Jul (JP); an adult and 2 fledglings were at Percha 2 Jun (GE). A **Great Kiskadee** at R.S. 27–29 Jul (D. Sheppard, JP, JO) furnished New Mexico's 4th well-documented record. South of usual were 4 Eastern Kingbirds at Clovis 17 Jun (MB); early for the se. was one at R.S. 27 Jul (JP, JO). Extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were 2–3 n. to Gallegos, *Harding* (SOW), and Yeso (JO) 3 Jun, and singles w. to Albuquerque 14 Jun (CR) and Ladder Ranch, *Sierra*, 12 Jun (S. Dobrott).

VIREOS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

Have **White-eyes Vireos** followed Carolina Wrens to the middle R.G.V.? Intriguing was one singing near Socorro 5 Jun (HW)and another singing near Escondida 29 Jun (HW), where it sang while another carried nest material 3 Jul (DH); unfortunately, the chosen site was adjacent to a Cooper's Hawk nest, and neither vireo was seen after 7 Jul (DH). Yet another White-eyed was w. to the Gila Valley near Riverside, where recorded 19 & 21 Jun (R. Shook). Peripheral Bell's Vireos were one on the Mimbres R., *Luna*, 6 Jul (SOW, PM), 2 on Berrenda Cr. 22 Jun (CR), and one at San Nicholas Spring, *Doña Ana*, 27 Jul (R. Taylor). Late was a Yellow-throated Vireo at R.S. 4 Jun (SW, RW, ph. JO). Far w. were single Red-eyed Vireos near Bill Evans L. 2 Jul (DE, BN) and Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CR). Purple Martins were in the San Juan, Zuni, Mogollon, Pinos Altos, Magdalena, San Mateo, White, and Sacramento Mts. (v.o.); noteworthy were 2 in Gallinas Canyon, Sangre de Cristo Mts., 25 Jun (CR) and 6 feasting on swarming ants in the San Agustin Plains 2 Jul (HS). Tree Swallows were feeding young at Chama 17–18 Jun (DE, BN); the extent to which this species breeds in New Mexico is unclear. Far e. was a Violet-green at the Mosquero breaks 11 Jun (CR).

A Bridled Titmouse on the Mimbres R. 11 Jun (SOW, PM) may be a *Luna* first. Brown Creepers are overlooked in summer, so noteworthy were adults with fledglings at Jemez Falls 9 Jul (WH), Sandia Crest 5 Jul (WH), and near Cloudcroft 16–18 Jun (WH); others were near Dulce 3 Jul (DS) and at 3 Manzano Mts. sites 15 Jul (WH). Cactus Wrens continued in evidence n. to *San Miguel* (CR) and *Harding* (SOW); 5 near Pastura 4 Jun (WH) furnished a local first, while at Albuquerque one was entering a nest 4 Jun (NV). One or more **Carolina Wrens** maintained their presence at Socorro June–July (HW) and at R.S. 4 Jun (SW, RW). At Enbom L., *Rio Arriba*, Marsh Wrens were occupying 8 territories 10 Jun, where there were 80(!) nest structures but only one with eggs (DS). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was n. to Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CR); another was at R.S. 29 Jul (JP). Up to 3 Veeries were singing at Chama 17 Jun–8 Jul (DE, BN, JO, PL, CR); at least 2 were heard along the Rio Pueblo, *Taos*, 4–24 Jun (WW, BV, JP). Also at Chama were 1–2 vocal Swainson's Thrushes 25 Jun (vt. JO) and 8 Jul (CR). Gray Catbirds again summered in the R.G.V. s. to Radium Springs; specific breeding records included a nest at Socorro that hatched 5 young 22 Jun (HW, ph. Patrick Lehman) and 3 nests at Bosque (HW). A Brown Thrasher visited Las Cruces 2 Jun–10 Jul (GE). Bendire's Thrashers at new locales were one at Quarai 13 Jul (HS) and 2 in the Bear Mts. 7 Jun (HS). A second round of breeding by Eldorado's Curve-billed Thrashers produced 30 nests, of which 26 were successful (DS). Noteworthy was a Crissal Thrasher in Chaunte Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 9 Jun (HS). Unseasonal was an American Pipit at Maxwell N.W.R. 2 Jul (JT). Suggestive of local breeding were up to 16 Cedar Waxwings at Chama and nearby areas 17 Jun–8 Jul (DE, BN, CR); nesting was first confirmed in New Mexico only in 1995. Phainopeplas were widespread and relatively numerous in the s., including 52 on Macho Cr. 10 Jun (GG); 1–2 were n. to Zuni 24 Jul (DC), Reserve 17 Jun (JO) and Placitas 21 Jun (*fide* HS), with successful nesting at Luis Lopez (JO) and Quarai (HS).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS

A Nashville Warbler at N.R.T. 3 Jun (JP) was late. Noteworthy for *Sierra* were 5 Lucy's Warblers on Berrenda Cr. 9 Jun (GG) and 7 on Macho Cr. 23 Jun (CR); 6 were on the Mimbres R., *Luna*, 10 Jun (SOW, PM). Several eastern strays livened up the season, including a Northern Parula at Albuquerque 3 Jun (WH), a Chestnut-sided in Bluewater Canyon 16 Jun (CR), a Black-and-white at Chaco Wash 6–7 Jun (H. Smith), a Worm-eating at San Marcial 27 Jun (HW), and a **Kentucky Warbler** at Cliff 1 Jun (SS). Among several lingering American Redstarts were 1–2 at Chama 17–25 Jun (DE, BN, vt. JO), Socorro 2 Jun+ (HW), Bosque 2 Jun (HW), and Ft. Stanton 5 Jul (WW). An Ovenbird was singing at El Rito 24 Jun (JO) near where others had summered in recent years; another was at Zuni 24 Jun (DC). There are few recent breeding records for Wilson's Warbler, so noteworthy was one singing at Taos Ski Valley 4 Jun (WW). Painted Redstarts made the eastward (or northward?) leap to the Sacramento Mts., with one at Bonito L. 5 July (WW) and 2 there 30 Jul (A. Gibson-Mathis). Elsewhere in the Sacramentos, Red-faced Warblers established new locales, including along the Rio Peñasco 17 Jun (WH) and near Timberon 8 June (WH). Tanagers pushing the envelope included a Hepatic e. to near Mosquero 11 Jun (CR) and single Summers n. to the Canadian R. near Sabinoso 11 Jun (CR) and Cuervo Cr. near Variadero 4 Jun (CR).

Dry conditions not withstanding, Cassin's Sparrows enjoyed a good season in their eastern strongholds, w. to Maxwell, Cimarron, Mountainair, and the middle R.G.V. (v.o.); in the nw., singles were near Cabezon 15 Jun (CR) and at Zuni 18 Jun (DC), while in the sw., 8 were near Antelope Wells 13 Jun (SOW) and a remarkable 147 were in Lake Valley 24 Jun (CR). New Mexico's breeding Botteri's Sparrow population was cut in half when fire followed by grazing rendered half of its Animas Valley habitat unsuitable; 13 territories were documented in remaining habitat 11–12 Jun and 2–5 Jul (SOW, PM). Representing a significant range extension, however, was a male Botteri's in the lower Mimbres Valley 6 Jul (SOW, PM), a *Luna* first. Black-chinned Sparrows continued in evidence in the upper R.G.V., with up to 5 at Orilla Verde 6 Jun–4 Jul (CR) and one on Guadalupe Mt., *Taos*, 6 Jun (KE). Vesper Sparrows summered s. in mountains near Manzano (WH), Mountainair (C. Cook), Corona (HS), White Oaks (SOW), and Piñon (WH), and 4 were near the San Mateo Mts. 21 Jun (N&SC). Lark Buntings were scarce and restricted to the ne.; high

June count was 5 at Maxwell 20–21 Jun (DC). Singing Savannah Sparrows in new locales were singles at Valle Grande, Jemez Mts., 9 Jul (WH) and Guadalupita 12 Jul (SOW, PM). Although Grasshopper Sparrows are scarce in shortgrass prairie, a recently fenced area near Abbott attracted 4 singers 21 Jun (HS); 2 n. of Mora 10 Jul (DS) furnished a new locale.

CARDINALS THROUGH FINCHES

Far n. was a Northern Cardinal on the Canadian R. near Sabinoso 11 Jun (CR); in the sw., one was on Berrenda Cr. 9 Jun (GG) and 7 were on Macho Cr. 10 Jun (GG) while breeding was observed for the first time at P.O. Canyon in the n. Peloncillo Mts. (R. Scholes). Pyrrhuloxias pushing n. in the R.G.V. were singles singing near San Antonio 19 Jun (N&SC) and at Caballo Dam 22 Jul (JP). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Edgewood 26 Jun (B. Evans *fide* HS). Blue Grosbeaks were conspicuous at Petroglyph N.M., including a first nest for the park 25 Jun (NV). Indigo Buntings inundated the s. half of the state and were conspicuous n. to *San Juan*, *Rio Arriba*, *Colfax*, and *Harding* (v.o.). In a reverse action, several Lazuli Buntings nested s. to the Cliff-Gila Valley (SS). A pair of Varied Buntings ventured n. to the Gila Valley near Riverside 24 Jul (WW); in Guadalupe Canyon, where regular, 3 territories were occupied 14–15 Jun (SOW). Noteworthy for the lower R.G.V. were Painted Buntings at 2 sites near Radium Springs (RM). One–five Dickissels were at Maxwell, L.V.N.W.R., Ft. Sumner, and Clovis June–July (v.o.). Although still overlooked by popular field guides, fair numbers of Eastern Meadowlarks breed in ne. New Mexico, and this season they outnumbered Westerns in some *Union* locales (HS). Far w. was a Common Grackle at Aztec 6 Jun (TR). Bronzed Cowbirds continued their tainted lifestyle across the s. tier of counties and n. in the R.G.V. to E.B.L. (v.o.). Northerly Orchard Orioles were single males at Maxwell 2 Jul (JT), Ft. Sumner 4 Jun (DC), and N.R.T. 3 Jun (JP, JO). Like Texans, Pine Grosbeaks prefer New Mexico ski areas; this season found singing birds at Taos Ski Valley 4 Jun (WW) and Santa Fe Ski Basin 1 Jul (BF). Cassin's Finches were scarce and generally confined to the n. highlands; high count was 9 on Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KE). Red Crossbills were found in the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Zuni, Sandia, Jicarilla, and Sacramento Mts. (v.o.); high count was 33 near Angel Fire 17 Jun (CR). Late were 4 Pine Siskins at Silver City (D. & M. Zimmerman); noteworthy were adults feeding fledglings at Zuni 3 Jun (ph. DC) and 19 Jul (DC). American Goldfinches were only recently documented breeding in New Mexico; this season found about 12 summering in the Chama area June–July (DE, BN, CR), plus 2 along the Rio de los Pinos 16 Jun (KE) and singles at Orilla Verde 6 Jun (CR) and Gallinas Canyon 25 Jun (CR).

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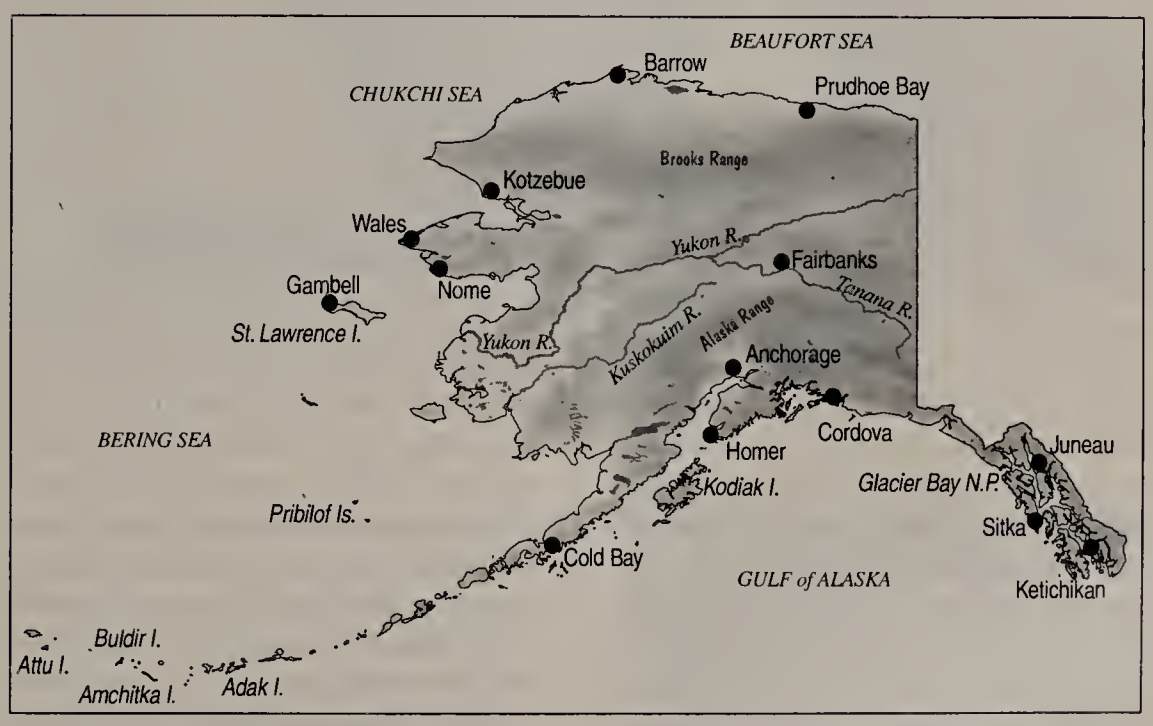

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After a promising warm and dry early season, Summer 2000 faded into a dreary and wet second half. Aside from excellent coverage and subsequent highlights from the Southeast's Mainland river systems, this breeding season was mostly uneventful. Fewer than usual Asiatic records came in, and most significant finds originated from the Southeast and from pelagic forays. Highlights from the season's reports clearly revealed where the Region's pioneering efforts continue to produce surprises. Each time the larger Southeast river systems are covered, especially between mid-June and July, notable results ensue. Most of these watersheds drain out of British Columbia through the Coast Range and provide continuous but limited deciduous forest cover in an otherwise homogeneous sea of Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock rainforest. Since the early 1970s most summer-season forays into these riparian habitat "islands" produced interesting birds. A parallel theme holds true for Alaska's southern pelagic realms, where systematic summer coverage also regularly produces new data. Coupled with the standard pelagic access sites, new Alaska ferry routes into deeper waters between Juneau and Seward, and research vessel voyages

into rarely checked pockets off the Aleutians are generating interesting seabird summaries and trends.

Abbreviations: ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); P.W.S. (Prince William Sound); S.E. (Southeast Alaska); S.C. (Southcoastal Alaska); S.W. (Southwest Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A pair of Red-throated Loons with 2 chicks, located on a pine bog lake on Gravina I. near Ketchikan 8–15+ Jul (AWP, SCH), represented one of few s. S.E. breeding records. While Red-throateds nest locally in S.E., viable breeding habitat is limited. Along with the now obligatory Nome area reports (usually without details), a single Arctic Loon appeared at St. Paul I. 26–27 Jul (WINGS), one of few Pribilof reports, and near Kotzebue 3 Jul (RJG). At least 5 were picked out of a mixed flock feeding offshore of the Nome-Council Rd. 10 Jun+ (SJD). U.C.I.'s second-ever Pied-billed Grebe established a territory at Potter Marsh 3–24 Jun+ (RLS, ph. DFD), one of the Region's few in summer. A Pink-footed Shearwater, annual and local in the North Gulf in very small numbers, was interesting inshore at the mouth of Resurrection Bay 5 Jul+ (TS).

More than a little surprising, especially in a non-*El Niño* year, was the adult **Brown Booby** that came aboard a research vessel positioned 13–15 Jul 200 nautical miles nw. of the Pribilofs in the cen. Bering Sea (*fide* *RAM, ph.). While a summer 1999 Brown Booby record was rejected (it appeared in Alaska waters at Kodiak after boarding and riding a ship from Hawaii), this individual's presence is more problematic. Analysis of weather systems present prior to this report may shed light on the natural occurences and validity of this most unusual record. A few Brandt's Cormorants (maximum 3) were noted 21–22 Jun (AD) in nearshore waters of Seal Rocks at the P.W.S. entrance, where a small colony has existed since at least the mid-1970s. There are four–six small such colonies on outer coast seastacks between Dixon Entrance and P.W.S. Another mid-summer but origin-unknown (Palearctic vs. Nearctic) **Great Egret**, Alaska's 11th, showed up on the Egegik R. 31 Jul–1 Aug (SH , WK, AC, DC).

Following a strong spring showing was one of the Region's few "summer" Bean Goose records, a single at St. Paul I. 20 Jun (ST PAUL). Casual in Alaska, with most reports from the fall, a female **Wood Duck** was found up the Taku R. 20 Jun 20 (AD). Three Steller's Eiders in Kodiak's Womens Bay 29 Jun+ (RAM, KT, KG) were in an area of the species' winter range where they occasionally over-summer. Hooded Merganser reports were generally below-average in number. A female near mi 50 of the Denali Hwy 15 Jul (WINGS, vt. GHR) was in the same pond where 2 were discovered last summer. Ruddy Ducks made a strong summer showing in the e. Interior. Beginning with a male on the Tanana R. flats sw. of Tok Jun 7 (KWL), aerial surveys of Dalthmund, Gasoline, and Old Albert Lakes produced up to *33* on 13 Jul (KWL). An adult **Eurasian Hobby** at Shemya I. 4–10 Jun, about the Region's 7th, punctuated this spring's exciting w. Aleutian migration (*DDG, RWP). A concentration of 4 pairs of Peregrine Falcons nested on Alaska Highway road-cuts in a 30-mi stretch east of Tok (KWL). Prey remains included several American Coots.

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

Another **Virginia Rail** was calling 2 Jun (RJG) in the Juneau sedge ponds that have produced reports nearly annually since the mid-1990s. Even with decent river-habitat coverage, 5 displaying Soras in the Haines area's productive 25-mi marsh 8–23 Jul (AD, TS) was the season's only report. A single American Coot, the season's first, at Yarger L. in the e. Interior 11 Jun (TT, LJO), was followed by peak count of 11, including a pair with a brood of 6 at Gasoline L. 13 Jul (KWL). As is always the case for the summer season, shorebird reports emphasized late spring highlights and early southbound wanderers, including: the only southbound Mongolian Plover, a single adult at St. Paul I. 7–8 Jul (ST PAUL); a late Common Greenshank report, a single at *Nome* 5–6 Jun (ph. SP, ph. SS) and the Mainland's 1st ever; one of very few Mainland Gray-tailed Tattlers, east of Nome on the Teller Rd. 29 Jun (TS); 3 more Far Eastern Curlews reached the w. Aleutians at Shemya 6 Jun (DDG), while a single was found at St. Paul I. 3 Jun (ST PAUL), the Pribilofs' first since the late 1980s; notable southbound Hudsonian Godwits on (and out in) the North Gulf, with 10 seen offshore from the Alaska Ferry 21 Jun (AD), significant staging counts of 31 in Juneau 23–29 Jul (PS), and hundreds at Anchorage's Coastal Trail mudflats through July; a late Red Knot in Anchorage, where casual, 31 May–3 Jun (TT, RLS, DFD, DWS; U.C.I.'s 4th); a southbound Red-necked Stint at St. Paul 17–20 Jul (ST PAUL); a Stilt Sandpiper (casual in the Bering Sea) at St. Paul 22 Jun (ST PAUL); and U.C.I.'s 4th Wilson's Phalarope, at Anchorage 1 Jun (BS).

An adult Black-headed Gull that wandered into outer Bristol Bay 3 Jun (RAM, ph.), and immatures at St. Paul I. 9 Jun (*fide* ST PAUL) and near Nome 15 Jul (TS) represented a below-average summer total. Of the usual scattering of Slaty-backed Gulls, an adult at Prudhoe Bay 15 Jun (ph. BPG) was most interesting. Always unusual inshore away from classic pelagic realms, an adult Sabine's Gull drifted north into Cook Inlet at Anchorage 4 Jun (TT, LJO), a 2nd spring U.C.I. record. Up to 16 Caspian Terns shared a Taku R. islet with nesting Herring Gulls 1–11 Jun+, and *2 active nests* with chicks were located on the 4th (AD). These nests confirm this recent Alaska invader's first S.E. breeding location and the first between the Pacific Northwest and other suspected or confirmed breeding sites on the Copper R. Delta. Caspian Tern was added to the Alaska list only in 1981. Late but not without mid-summer precedent was a single *longipennis* Common Tern at St. Paul I. 23 Jun (ST PAUL). Most unusual and rarely reported in such summer concentrations, observers tallied Marbled Murrelet aggregations of 300–404 in the Boca de Quadra area of s. S.E. 22 Jun–1 Jul (AWP), and an incredible *830+* on 25 Jul (AD), all within a quarter-mile stretch of water off Anyaka I., halfway up

SA Given this season's reports, heartening news continues for both Laysan and Short-tailed Albatrosses. On an extended pelagic trip across the Aleutians, MacIntosh noted both species in record numbers for modern times. In a massive feeding swarm of pelagic birds that covered the sea over the east end of Stalemate Bank just west of Attu I., observers tallied at least **2000** Laysans and 3 Short-taileds 16–17 Jul (RAM). Since the late 1970s, maximum Laysan counts rarely exceeded 50 individuals; this summer's totals continue to demonstrate the species' obvious recovery. Shipboard observers documented another **11** Short-tailed Albatrosses across the length of the Aleutians 3–20 Jul (RAM), while additional singles were described from Unimak Pass 10 Jun (LG), off Cape Yakataga from the Juneau–Seward ferry 23 Jun (AD), and off Kodiak 3 Jul (RK *fide* RAM).

Lynn Canal near Haines. Unusual inshore and well before typical periods of late season occurrence was a Crested Auklet on a lake near Barrow 30 Jun (TS). Variable numbers, usually several thousand, annually wander into the w. Beaufort Sea each year after late-July.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The season's only Northern Pygmy-Owl reports came from what are now considered "regular" summer locations, a single on the Taku R. 4 Jun and 2 in Upper Chilkat Valley north of Haines 8–10 Jul (AD). The only Barred Owl observation was a calling bird in tidewater hemlock woods in the Chilkat SP campground at Haines 12 Jun (TT, LJO). Although Barred Owls are recorded annually, mostly from the cen. and s. S.E. Mainland since the 1970s, reports from Glacier Bay NM and the Chilkat Valley inland from Haines are the most northerly; our understanding of the species' Alaska range and status continues to evolve. Common Nighthawks again occupied nesting substrate in the Haines area, including at least 6 in display along the Chilkat R. sand bars (mi 23 Haines Highway) 14 Jun–23 Jul (TT, LJO, TS), and 2 on the Kelsall R. flats over the ridge to the south on 8 Jul (AD). Other singles were reported from the e. Interior at mi 1313 of the Alaska Highway near Tok 22 Jul (TR, *fide* KWL), and over a Juneau subdivision 7 Jun (DR, KT). Most unusual in summer, when this casual fall visitor is accidental, was a male Anna's Hummingbird near Ketchikan 9 Jun (JFK *fide* SCH).

On the basis of four fair color prints of a bird captured and released 4 Jul at a Denali NM MAPS site (*fide* DFDe, ph.), **Black Phoebe** became Alaska's 460th species. With few records north of the species' breeding areas in nw. California, this individual exemplified extreme post-breeding wandering. The season was otherwise quiet for extralimital or unusual Tyrannids, with only one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher heard near Tok 22 Jun (RP), and yet another Eastern Kingbird, about the 8th for Alaska's North Slope, at Prudhoe Bay 23 Jun (BPG ph., DT, KB). Almost annual for the past eight years, a **Cassin's Vireo**, a single, was heard on an early territory up the Taku R. 11 Jun+ (AD), the season's only report. A few scattered single Warbling Vireos in the greater Ketchikan area 4–30 Jun+ (AWP) were about average for offshore in S.E., where they are distinctly tied to the Mainland river corridors. A more systematic count of *78* on 15 Jun along the 38-mi Haines Highway from tidewater to sub-apline coniferous forest at the Canada Border (TT, LJO) was one of the Region's highest tallies and presumably indicative of the species' S.E. status in areas of sufficient habitat. Given decent river-system coverage, it was surprising that the only Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports were pairs at Marten R. on the Boca de Quadra Mainland in s. S.E. and at a nest in a roadbank near Ketchikan 23 Jul–12 Jul (AWP, SCH). Nearly all summer records of this rare and local visitor come from the south half of S.E. For the 3rd year running and beyond the edge of the species' nesting sites at its periphery in S.W. were 3 pairs of Cliff Swallows at King Salmon thru July (SS). Apart from less obvious biological reasons, Cliff Swallows are distinctly limited by nesting substrate beyond their traditional range, and ephemeral small colonies and isolated pairs beyond are not uncommon. A white-bellied Barn Swallow from the Teller area of the Seward Pen. 13 Jun (SJD) was the summer's single extralimital find.

Providing the eighth record for Alaska's North Slope was this Eastern Kingbird at Deadhorse, Prudhoe Bay, 23 Jun 2000. ***Photograph by Brian P. Gibbons.***

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Unusual on the coastal slope beyond customary interior dry-country breeding habitats were 5 Gray-cheeked Thrushes in the Juneau area 4 Jun (RJG), and a single bird 5 miles from tidewater near Haines 14 Jun (TT, LJO). These were all probably overshoot migrants. Following the Attu reports from earlier in June was a single Dusky Thrush at nearby Shemya on 8 Jun (DDG). Getting late for the s. Bering Sea was a Yellow Wagtail at St. Paul I. 20 Jun (ST PAUL). There are a few "spring" records after the second week of June. Still casual in the Region, 2 different Gray Wagtails were discovered at Shemya I. 3 & 12 Jun (DDG). A few American Pipits summered at St. Paul I., where a pair with at least one fledgling was described from alpine habitat 8 Jul (ST PAUL). Although there are historic accounts of breeding from Bering Sea and e. Aleutian islands, we have few reports of such from the Pribilofs. Extralimital Common Yellowthroats included singing birds at Anchorage 14 Jun (AP, RC) and

Northway in the e. Interior, where casual, 19 Jun (KWL). Western Tanagers were making news across suitable riparian habitat in S.E. all season. Notable were an above-average 8 around Juneau 5–13 Jun+ (RJG) and easily 25+/day in the Haines area 11–15 Jun (TT, LJO). More extreme was a single offshore at Ketchikan 5 Jul (JG), only the 4th there and 2nd in summer.

A **Swamp Sparrow** set up territory and teased Juneau observers from a sedge marsh 26 Jun–31 Jul (SZ, MWS, PS, TS), furnishing only the 2nd spring/summer Regional report of this casual fall visitor. Most unexpected in S.E., where it is rare in fall/winter, a White-throated Sparrow was mist-netted near Juneau 19–20 Jun+ (RJG, GB). There are only a handful of summer reports, usually of singing singles in the e. Interior. A late-season storm pushed Common Rosefinches into the Region, with 2 males 7 Jun and a female on the 12th at Shemya (DDG), and another bright male at St. Paul I. 13–14 Jun (ST PAUL, vt. GHR), a 2nd island record. Crossbills of both species were broadly but variably reported, with no trends to articulate. After quite a hiatus, White-wingeds did show in small numbers locally in S.C. White Spruce forests on the e. Kenai Pen. and north to U.C.I.

Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.) and videotape (v.t.) referenced are on file at the University of Alaska Museum.

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Washington and Oregon had another interesting season. There were some fine rarities, including Oregon's first Yellow-throated Vireo and fourth Blue-winged Warbler, plus Washington's fourth Eastern Phoebe and fifth White-winged Dove. More interesting, however, were findings from June research cruises off the northern Olympic Peninsula, which recorded not only rarities (two Murphy's/Solander's Petrels and three Manx Shearwaters) but out-of-season Laysan Albatrosses, Buller's Shearwaters, Short-tailed Shearwaters, Arctic Terns, and Ancient Murrelets. What they did not find were numbers of Cassin's Auklets. The decline of this species as a breeder in the Region is of grave concern. Another bird possibly in peril as a breeder here is Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. On the other hand, numbers of other common seabirds such as Northern Fulmar, Sooty Shearwater, and Common Murres seemed to be rebounding from recent downtrends. Perhaps the most interesting report of the season, however, involved a family of grouse in the Olympic Mountains—a sighting which raises the specter of a relict Spruce Grouse population there.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, *Lane*, OR); M.N.W.R. (Malheur N.W.R., *Harney*, OR); N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA); P.N.P.

(Pt. No Pt., *Kitsap*, WA); eastside and westside (east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

A tally of 100 Pacific Loons at Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, 17 Jun was exceptional for summer (PP). A Yellow-billed Loon was at O.S. 14–31 Jul (GR); this is the 5th in the past five summers, but only the 9th in the past 20. A pair of Red-necked Grebes with a chick at Alakai L., *Grant*, 2 Jul provided an extremely rare nesting record away from ne. Washington (SM, DD, CB). Eight Clark's Grebes were at F.R.R. 2 Jun, their only westside breeding area (WW), while one at Pacifica, *Josephine*, 27 Jun provided a rare summer record from elsewhere on the westside (DV). Two Laysan Albatrosses were off the n. Olympic Peninsula in late Jun (SMi, RRw); there have been summer records in three of the last ten years. Northern Fulmar numbers were up from the previous three summers, with a peak of 1746 off Westport 22 Jul (TRW). Two **dark *Pterodromas***, both reported as Murphy's, were off the n. Olympic Peninsula 19 & 21 Jun (BLb, RRw); the summer distribution of Murphy's and Solander's in the ne. Pacific is still uncertain. Pink-footed Shearwaters improved over last summer's low numbers, with an average of 70 per trip off Westport. One Flesh-footed Shearwater was off the n. Olympic Peninsula on 18 Jun (BLb, SMi, RRw) was the only report. A very unusual scattering of summer Buller's Shearwaters included singles off the n. Olympic Peninsula on 18, 19 & 21 Jun (RRw, SMi) and off Westport 14–15 Jul (TRW). Sooty Shearwater numbers were respectable, averaging over 2300 per trip off Westport in July (TRW), apparently the highest summer numbers in a decade. Three Short-tailed Shearwaters off the n. Olympic Peninsula 17 Jun (BLb, SMi) provided rare summer records. Manx Shearwater sightings continue to increase, including no fewer than 6 this summer, with singles 32 nautical miles w. of Westport 23 Jun (†M. Force), at O.S. 9–23 Jul (v.t. SM, DD), 5 miles off Port Angeles, *Clallam*, 22 Jul (†PL), ±3 miles off Kalaloch, *Jefferson*, 22 Jun (†SMi, RRw), ±10 mi off the Hoh R., *Jefferson*, 21 Jun (RRw), and ±10 mi off the Raft R. mouth, *Grays Harbor*, 22 June (RRw); this was the 5th consecutive summer with Manx records. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers off Westport were very low, averaging only 20 per trip (TRW), and Leach's Storm-Petrel were found on only one of three trips off Westport in July. Larger numbers of both species were found off the n. Olympic Peninsula in late June (RRw, SMi), maybe indicating a shift northward.

A few American White Pelicans continue to roam the westside, including 4 at Smith L., *Multnomah*, 10 Jun (R. Spencer) and 2 at Blaine, *Whatcom*, 16–28 Jun (D. Robinson). A Brown Pelican at Brinnon, *Jefferson*, 13 Jul was unusually far into the Puget Sound region, especially for summer (G. Dunham); most Puget Sound records are from fall. Snowy Egrets, now annual in Washington, were near Oroville, *Okanogan*, 9 Jun (†R. Foxall) and Wilson Creek, *Grant*, 13–15 Jul (†M.A. Thorbeck, C. Eagan). A Cattle Egret was near Burns, *Harney*, 25 Jun (JA); they are rare summer visitors to se. Oregon. Remnants of the May irruption of White-faced Ibis were found throughout the season, including 27 at Doerfler's Pond, *Linn*, 1 Jun (RG), one at Kingston, *Kitsap*, 1 Jun (BN), one at Columbia N.W.R., *Grant*, WA, 3 Jun (vt. SM, DD), 7 at R.N.W.R. 4 Jun (F&K Patrick), up to 16 at W. Richland, *Benton*, 1–3 Jun (B.&T. Clarke), one at Seattle 16 Jun (B. Feltner), one at N.S.C.B. 10 Jul (TR), one at Brookings, *Curry*, 11 Jul (CD), one at Wilson Creek, *Grant*, WA, 13 Jul (M.A. Thorbeck, C. Eagan), and one at Seneca, *Grant*, OR, 14 Jul (RG); this species typically is rare during summer in ne. Oregon and e. Washington and extremely rare on the westside.

Rare lingering geese included a Ross's near Burns, *Harney*, throughout the period (HN), a White-fronted at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, 17 Jul (JL), and the Emperor at Port Angeles, *Clallam*, throughout the period (PL). Brant were present in above-normal numbers, with a maximum of 21 in *Clallam* 12–13 July (PL). No pure American Black Ducks have been seen at Everett, *Snohomish*, in over one year (SM); this introduced population is likely now extirpated, though some of the genes live on in Mallard x American Black Duck hybrids. Blue-winged Teal numbers were distinctly high Regionwide, and 74 at F.R.R. 6 Jun was exceptional for the westside (P.&S. Summers). A likely Cinnamon × Green-winged Teal was noted at F.R.R. 2 Jun (†P. Mathios). A Northern Shoveler with young at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, was at Oregon's only regular breeding location (RG). A Ring-necked Duck brood at N.S.C.B. provided an extremely rare coastal breeding record (TR). Scarce breeders anywhere on the westside included a brood of Green-winged Teal at Hastie L., *Island* (SM, DD), 3 broods of Lesser Scaup at Everett (SM), and 4 broods of Lesser Scaup near Freeland, *Island* (SM, S. Terry). Greater Scaup seemed more evident than usual this summer, with a maximum of 40 at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor*, throughout the period (TA) and 2 rare eastside summer records: 3 at Hines, *Harney*, 12 Jun (HN) and one at Othello, *Adams*, 2 Jul (SM). A Long-tailed Duck, rare during summer, was at Port Angeles 22 Jul (PL). A tally of 77 Barrow's Goldneye at L. Lenore, *Grant*, 2 Jul was exceptional (SM, DD, CB). Buffleheads, very rare breeders, raised a brood near Chesaw, *Okanogan* (PL). The only report of nesting White-tailed Kites was from the vicinity of Central Point, *Jackson*, 22 Jul (DV). Nineteen Osprey nests at Port Gardner Bay, *Snohomish*, is likely the largest concentration on the westside (SM). Swainson's Hawks at Portland 3 Jun (M. Houck) and Sauvie I. 2 Jun (C. Hallett) were undoubtedly remnants of the spring invasion; typically this species is extremely rare on the westside. An ad. Merlin with 4 fledglings near Bellingham, *Whatcom*, provided extremely rare nesting evidence (TRW). Very late migrant Merlins were at the New R., *Coos*, 1 Jun (TR) and Walla Walla 12 Jun (MD, MLD). Extremely rare for summer w. of the Cascades was a Prairie Falcon near Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 12 Jun (PP)..

GROUSE THROUGH WOODPECKERS

SA Rumors of Spruce Grouse on the Olympic Peninsula have surfaced now and again. This June, Mark Lockwood closely observed and provided written documentation for a female with 3–4 chicks at low elevation about five mi. e. of Oil City, *Jefferson*. Notably, the large white spots on the uppertail coverts of Franklin's Grouse (the race elsewhere in Washington) were not noted. Mark's sighting strongly suggests an extant population of Spruce Grouse on the Olympic Peninsula, but documentation by photograph or specimen would be necessary to fully establish this fact. Furthermore, the question arises, if Spruce Grouse are present, what subspecies are they?

Two ad. Mountain Quail with 2 chicks were in *Pierce* 20 Jul, perhaps representing a previously unknown population (D.

Paulson); the only established populations in w. Washington are on the westside of the Puget Sound, mostly in *Kitsap*. A Sandhill Crane, casual w. of the Cascades during summer, was at Cape Arago, *Coos*, 15 Jul (TR). An American Golden-Plover at N.S.C.B. 22 Jul was the first during summer since 1996 (JG). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers at N.S.C.B. 4–29 Jun provided the Region's first oversummering record (TR), while 4 at Ten Mile Creek, *Coos*, 3 Jun were late spring migrants (DB). An ad. Snowy Plover with 2 young were at the Necanicum Estuary, *Clatsop*, 29 Jul (TT); they are very local nesters in the Region and have not nested in *Clatsop* for 15 years. Semipalmated Plovers unsuccessfully attempted nesting at N.S.C.B., where they have bred twice previously (DL, KC); the only other Oregon breeding records are from M.N.W.R. during the late 1980s. Five Black-necked Stilts were at Ankeny N.W.R., *Marion*, 18–31 Jul (JL); they are extremely rare on the westside during late summer/fall. American Avocets are not annual during summer on the westside, so singles at Port Orford, *Curry*, 17 Jun (J. Cramer) and the Sandy R. mouth, *Multnomah*, 27 Jun (S. Clark) were noteworthy; even more notable, however, was the westside's first nesting record at Crockett L., *Island*, where 8 adults raised 3 young (SM, DD, H. Opperman). The only Solitary Sandpiper was at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln*, 8 Jul (JA); the Region has recently averaged 4/July. Several Upland Sandpipers near Seneca, *Grant*, OR, 18 Jun revealed that this species maintains its tenuous foothold in the Region (TR). A tally of 950 ad. Whimbrels at Tokeland, *Pacific*, 22 Jul was unprecedented for southbound migration (SM, DD, EK). Bar-tailed Godwits, formerly accidental during summer, are becoming annual in occurrence. This summer one was at Ten Mile Creek, *Coos*, 17 Jul (DB), an ad. female was at Tokeland from 14 Jul on (PL, vt. SM), and a male was at Tokeland 22 Jul (EK, vt. SM, DD); the Tokeland birds that were there last summer. There were 55 Semipalmated Sandpipers reported from 30 Jun onward, with a maximum of 10 at Crockett L., *Island*, 15 Jul (SM, DD), being about average. The only Baird's Sandpiper this summer was at Heceta Beach, *Lane*, 6 Jul (B.&Z. Stotz). Six Pectoral Sandpipers, from 6 Jul on, was about normal. A **Rock Sandpiper** at the Siltcoos R. mouth, *Lane*, 27 Jun was the Region's first in summer (J. Fukuda, DB). Early returning Dunlin included one at N.S.C.B. 25 Jun (TR), one at O.S. 13 Jul (TA), and one near Sequim, *Clallam*, 13 Jul (PL). A Stilt Sandpiper at Othello, *Adams*, 3 Jun represented only the 3rd eastside record of a northbound bird (DD, SM). Wilson's Phalaropes, rare nesters on the westside, bred at Ankeny N.W.R. and Baskett Slough N.W.R. (RG, JL).

Four South Polar Skuas off the Olympic Peninsula in June (RRw, BLb, SMi) was a surprising number for summer. Two Parasitic Jaegers were flying over freshwater at Crockett L., *Island*, 17 Jun (DD, SM); jaegers are very rare during summer in the Puget Sound region. Franklin's Gulls continued their irruption into e. Washington, where very rare during summer, with up to 10 at L. Lenore, *Grant*, 8 Jun–2 Jul (TA), 3 at Wilson Creek, *Grant*, 1–4 Jul (PtS, SM), and 8 at Othello, *Adams*, 8 Jun (TA); most interestingly, a bird at L. Lenore on 8 Jun exhibited behavior suggestive of nesting (TA). On the westside, Franklin's are extremely rare during spring but rare-to-uncommon during fall; one at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 6 Jun was a holdover from spring (PP), while singles near Winchester Bay, *Douglas*, 18 Jul (DB) and the Necanicum R. mouth, *Clatsop*, 20 Jul (MP) were early fall arrivals. A **Little Gull** at P.N.P. 26–27 Jul was only the 3rd for summer in Washington (VN). A Mew Gull at L. Lenore is rare during any season, but one on 8 Jun likely provided the first eastside summer record (TA). A **Glaucous Gull**, casual during summer, was at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 4 Jun (JH). Elegant Terns were found annually in the Region from 1989–1998, but with the return of colder ocean temperatures, none were seen in 1999 and none were expected in 2000. Consequently, 3 at the Necanicum Estuary, *Clatsop*, 18 Jul (TT), one at Clatsop Spit, *Clatsop*, 19 July (TT), and one at O.S. 9 Jul (SM, DD) were quite surprising. Perhaps, like Brown Pelicans and Heermann's Gulls, their occurrence is becoming less linked to water temperature. Two Arctic Terns remained at Everett, *Snohomish*, to 21 Jun without any sign of successful nesting (TA). Furthermore, 26 summering Arctic Terns were off the Olympic Peninsula in June (SMi); midsummer records away from the Everett breeding colony are very scarce. Eleven Forster's Terns were at F.R.R. 2 Jun, with scattered sightings there to 10 Jul (WW). One was at Everett, *Snohomish*, 7 Jun and 9 Jul (D. Beaudette, G. Toffic) and another was at Monroe, *Snohomish*, 9 Jun (KK); Forster's are extremely rare spring migrants and are unknown as breeders on the westside. Black Terns were at their only two westside nesting locations—25 at F.R.R. 2 Jun (WW) and 5 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., *Polk*, 13 Jun (J. Geier). After a decade of breeding failure, Common Murres bred successfully for the 2nd consecutive summer; July trips off Westport found good numbers of chick/adult pairs moving north (TRW). About 10 Ancient Murrelets, some in pairs, were off the Olympic Peninsula in June (BLb, RRw), raising hopes that this species continues to breed in Washington. Cassin's Auklet numbers, a source of concern for a decade, remained very low off Westport, averaging only 2 per trip (TRW). To the north, 161 Cassin's were off the Olympic Peninsula 16–25 Jun, a low count for waters adjacent to their breeding colonies (SMi). A Horned Puffin was at Cape Foulweather, *Lincoln*, 15 Jul (B. Thackaberry, †JH, S. Wratten); the species has been seen during Jul-Aug in three of the last four years on the Oregon coast.

Band-tailed Pigeons, rare on the eastside, visited Fields, *Harney*, 1 Jun (M) and Frenchglen, *Harney*, 13 Jun (AC); most eastside records are from se. Oregon during spring/summer. Washington's 5th **White-winged Dove** was at Tatoosh I., *Clallam*, 12 Jun (ph. J. Parrish); all records are May–Nov. For the 5th summer of the last six, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in *Harney*, this time at M.N.W.R. 9–27 Jun (CC, AC). Another reported from Mountlake Terrace, *Snohomish*, 11 Jul is pending WBRC review (†J. Elder); this species is rare in Washington, with most records being Jun–Jul. Black Swifts were found at several Oregon locations far from Salt Creek Falls, *Lane*, their only known breeding site in that state; most were on the coast during early and mid-Jun. A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania*, 21 Jul was in sw. Washington, where very rare (WC). A Lewis's Woodpecker, rare in w. Washington, was near Little Rock, *Thurston*, during Jul (K. Li, K. Baker). Integrade Red-shafted × Yellow-shafted Flickers were in Lynwood, *Snohomish*, 12 Jun (P. Ross) and Seattle 8 Jul (TA); though common during winter, such birds are casual during summer.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Typical of the past decade, 9 Least Flycatchers were found, mostly on the eastside, with singles at Page Springs, *Harney*, throughout the period (W. Gross), Hamilton, *Skagit*, 4 Jun (SA), Vantage, *Kittitas*, 11 Jun (R. Lawson), Agency L.,

Klamath, 7 Jul (FM), Turnbull N.W.R., *Spokane*, 25 Jul (M. Frobe); 2 were at Holliday S.P., *Grant*, OR, 14 Jul (RG) and at Lower Hardy Canyon, *Yakima*, 17 Jun (PtS). A Gray Flycatcher in se. Washington at FEALE 30 Jul was well away from known breeding areas and may have been an exceptionally early migrant (BL, NL). Washingon's 4th **Eastern Phoebe** was singing at L. Ozette, *Clallam*, 3 Jun (†S. Gremel). Eastern Kingbirds are very rare on the outer coast, so singles at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 3 Jul (TJW) and Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, 12–13 Jun (R. Lowe) were noteworthy. This species is also a very local nester on the westside, but numbers may be increasing, as evidenced by 6 pairs plus 3 singles near Everett, *Snohomish*, during Jun (SM). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** near Burns, *Harney*, 15 Jul was the 13th for Oregon and the 5th for e. Oregon (ph. SD); previous e. Oregon records spanned 14 Jun–7 Aug. Oregon's first **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at M.N.W.R. 9 Jun (†CC, JS, AC, D. Taylor); the prior Regional record was from Spencer I., *Snohomish*, 26–28 Oct 1995. A singing Hutton's Vireo near Husum, *Klickitat*, 17 Jun was in e. Washington, where extremely rare (SJ).

A family group of Western Scrub-Jays at Prineville, *Crook*, provided further evidence of range expansion (N. MacDonald). A tally of 2000 Bank Swallows at Walla Walla 8 Jul was exceptional (MD, MLD), while a colony of 10+ near Toutle, *Cowlitz*, 2 Jul was at a previously unknown breeding area (†F. Drobny); this very local breeder on the westside may be expanding its range. Very rare in w. Oregon n. of *Jackson* was a Pygmy Nuthatch at Big L., *Linn*, 12 Jul (M. Hunter); another at M.N.W.R. 29 Jul was also well out-of-place (HN). Two Bewick's Wrens at Page Springs, *Harney*, 11 Jun (HN) and 2 in the Trout Creek Mountains, *Harney*, 16 Jul (SD) were well east of their normal range. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Trout Creek Canyon, *Harney*, 1 Jun was east of this species' known breeding range (M). A summering Gray Catbird at Bend, *Deschutes*, was well west of this species' Oregon breeding areas (D. Tracey). A pair of Northern Mockingbirds along Alder Creek Canyon, *Klickitat*, raised 4 young, while an additional male sang nearby (SJ); there are ± 3 previous Washington breeding records. Other Washington reports included one at Hanford, *Benton*, 17 Jun (R. Johnson, D. Ward) and two near Pasco, *Franklin*, 23 Jun (R. Rawvett). In Oregon, mockingbirds were at Toledo, *Lincoln*, 17 Jun (DF) and Glass Butte, *Lake*, 9 Jun (JL); the Region has recently averaged ±5/summer. A Brown Thrasher at Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, 25 Jun was about the 21st for Oregon (†DF).

WARBLERS TO CROSSBILLS

Oregon's 3rd and the Region's 4th **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Indian Ford Creek, *Deschutes*, 24–31 Jul. (ph. GG, †CG, †J. Meredith); previous records came from May and September. A **Virginia's Warbler** was in the Trout Creek Mountains, *Harney*, 16 Jul (SD); in 1998 the first Oregon nesting evidence came from nearby areas in *Malheur*. Northern Parula sightings include a male at M.N.W.R. 10 Jun (CC), a female at M.N.W.R. 11 Jun (CC), and a male at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 12 Jul (PP); there are about 45 Oregon records, mostly from *Harney*. A male Magnolia Warbler banded at Gailesville Res., *Douglas*, 14 Jul added to Oregon's ±35 records, but was exceptional for mid-summer (*fide* DV). At least one Black-and-white Warbler was at M.N.W.R. 13 Jun–5 Jul (K. Rodecap, RG, DP); the Region has recently averaged about 3/summer. There were a number of noteworthy American Redstart sightings. On the westside, a pair nested at Cape Blanco, *Curry* (TJW), 2 males were at Fortson Mill Ponds, *Snohomish*, for the 2nd consecutive year (SM, DD), 3 males were at traditional Skagit R. sites (SA), and one was at Cascade Head, *Lincoln*, 13 Jun (PP); redstarts are an extremely local breeder in w. Washington, have bred only once in w. Oregon, and are a rare spring migrant into mid-June. On the eastside, potential breeding occurred at Liberty, *Kittitas*, where a pair was found carrying food (SM, DD), and at Indian Ford Creek, where two females and a male were found (N. Pieplow, GG); redstarts are rare breeders on the east slope of the Cascades. A singing Ovenbird near Camp Sherman, *Jefferson*, 19 Jun was about the 43rd for Oregon (PaS), while one at Packwood, *Lewis*, 16 Jun–1 Jul was Washington's 15th (T. Eckert, †KK); relatively few records are from mid-summer. Northern Waterthrushes again occupied their only known w. Oregon breeding site at Salt Creek Falls, *Lane* (R. Freeman), while one singing at Liberty, *Kittitas*, 10 Jun was well away from Washington's known breeding areas (PtS). Yellow-breasted Chats at Pierce N.W.R., *Skamania*, 15 Jun (EA) and near Rockport, *Skagit*, 16–17 Jun (SA) furnished the 23rd and 24th w. Washington records since 1970, most of them from late May–late Jun.

A Green-tailed Towhee, casual in Oregon w. of the Cascades, was in *Benton*'s Coast Range 5 Jun (B. Newhouse). Recently considered a vagrant anywhere on the westside, Brewer's Sparrows certainly seem to be established, at least locally, in *Jackson* and *Josephine* with 3 adults and 3 juveniles near Central Point 22 Jul (DV), 4, Mt. Ashland 7 Jul (DV), and one singing, near Cave Junction 21 Jun (CM, MM). Other potential westside breeders included 3 at Detroit, *Marion*, 12 Jun (SD) and one at *Linn* Cascades, 8 Jul (RG). A true vagrant was a Brewer's at Lincoln City, *Lincoln*, 13 Jun (PP). Vesper Sparrows at Clatsop Spit, *Clatsop*, 4 Jul (TT) and Salmon R., *Lincoln*, 28 Jul (PP) were well away from known breeding areas. Black-throated Sparrows staged a mini-invasion into the westside, where it is irruptive usually from mid-May to early Jun. Singles were at Portland 5 Jun (J. Salmon), Gresham, *Multnomah*, 7 Jun (W. Stone), Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 7 Jun (TJW), and Graham, *Pierce*, 15 Jun (B. Holtz). In e. Washington, this species is rare and local. Two at Richland, *Benton*, 13 Jun (BL, NL, BW), and 3+ near Vantage, *Kittitas*, during Jun (R. Romea, S. Pink, M. Breece) were at or near traditional sites, but two exchanging food at Steptoe Butte, *Whitman*, 3–5 Jun (JA) potentially represented a substantial range expansion. A Grasshopper Sparrow, a rare-and-declining westside breeder, was at F.R.R. 9 Jun (S. Maulding). A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow at Rattlesnake Ridge, *Benton*, 23 Jun was well away from this race's breeding area in the North Cascades and was about 4 weeks late locally (BL, NL). A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Cape Blanco 4 Jun was three weeks late, providing a rare summer record (TJW). A young **Gray-headed Junco** in the Trout Creek Mtns., *Harney*, 17 Jul provided Oregon's 5th record (SD); a small breeding population likely exists in extreme se. Oregon as nesting was confirmed in *Malheur* last summer. **Lapland Longspurs** were at Ten Mile Creek, *Coos*, 3 Jun (DB), Yaquina Bay, *Lincoln*, 12 Jun (DF), and Floras L., *Curry*, 14 Jun (DL, KC); there are only 3 previous summer records, including 2 last year during early Jun.

Oregon averages about 5 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks/summer, Washington about one/summer; this year 7 were in Oregon, all 2–12 Jun, while Washington had 3: Spokane, 5 Jun (†JA, W. Hall), near Twisp, *Okanogan*, 5 Jul (J. Robertson), and Anacortes, *Skagit*, 19 Jul (ph. H. Heneks). An Indigo Bunting was 28 mi. w. of Grants Pass, *Josephine*, 29 Jun (DV), about the

43rd for Oregon, most of which have been mid-May to early Aug. Washington's 10th **Indigo Bunting** and the 3rd this year was at Concrete, *Skagit*, 7 Jun (K. & J. Wiggers). Oregon's 8th **Dickcissel** was at Brookings, *Curry*, 2–11 Jul (K. Goldwater, DM, CD); most previous records were also from the outer coast and were scattered from Jul–Mar. Washington's only Tricolored Blackbird colony, near Wilson Creek, *Grant*, boasted up to 25 adults plus young (†TA, †SM). A Common Grackle at the New R., *Coos*, 2 Jun was about the 24th for Oregon (TR). Great-tailed Grackles extended their spring push into Oregon with up to 2 at F.R.R. 9 Jun–11 Jul (D. Irons, D. Fix, AC, S. McDonald), one at Plush, *Lake*, 19 Jun (RG, D. Heyerly), 4 at Agency L., *Klamath*, 5 Jul (KS), and one at Eugene, *Lane*, 23 Jun (R. Titus); during the last several years, this species has been mostly limited to *Harney*. A White-winged Crossbill was at Waldo L., *Lane*, 5–13 Jun (WW, TR) and 2 were at Conrad Meadows, *Yakima*, 17 Jun (PtS); this species is unpredictable in the Region's montane forests.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Jim Acton, Eric Anderson, Scott Atkinson, Tom Aversa, David Bailey, Casey Beachell, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Darrell Faxon, Chuck Gates, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Jeff Harding, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Elizabeth Kroese, Bruce Labar (BLb), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Paul Lehman, John Lundsten, Maitreya (M), Frank Mayer, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Scott Mills (SMi), Steven Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Michael Patterson, Diane Pettey, Phil Pickering, Gene Revelas, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Richard Rowlett (RRw), Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PtS), **Paul Sullivan** (PaS, E. OR), Todd Thornton, David Tracy, Bill Tweit, Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Wayne Weber, Bob Woodley.

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Following last year's first accepted record of an adult Shy Albatross off California, an immature was photographed near Cordell Bank, where a remarkable five species of albatrosses have occurred. This location has recorded more albatross species than any other northern hemisphere site.

Urbanization continues almost unchecked in many coastal and Bay Area locales, and its impact on productivity of riparian-associated neotropical migrants has become increasingly apparent. In Santa Cruz County, a dearth of nesting Warbling Vireos and Western Wood-Pewees and a reduction in Yellow Warbler range was documented (DLSu, Steve Gerow, Bryan Mori). Around San Jose, Santa Clara County, the once-common Yellow Warbler is now restricted to a few isolated stretches of riparian habitat; one pair diligently followed this summer fledged only cowbirds (JMa). The impact of cowbirds moving upslope in the Sierra Nevada foothills has been dramatic the last few breeding seasons, with once-common Warbling and Cassin's Vireos now patchy and local (DR, BDW et al.).

Abbreviations: CBRC (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon Island); F.S. (Field Station); N.S. (National Seashore); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.F. (San Francisco); W.A. (Wildlife Area). Birds banded at Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, should also be credited to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab, and those on F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. These include CBRC review species, claims of first county records, and exceptionally unseasonal birds.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

A Yellow-billed Loon at Pt. Reyes 4–5 Jun represented only about the tenth record for *Marin* (RS, m.ob.). For the fourth time, Eared Grebes nested at Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, where five pairs were seen with chicks 17 Jul (RJR). A Laysan Albatross was off Santa Cruz 23 Jul (ShJ). Following the first accepted California record of **Shy Albatross** last year, an imm. was just n. of Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 29 Jul (ph. †MEa, ph. †SBT, ph. †E. Preston; ph. †C. Taylor, m.ob.). The bird has been tentatively identified as *Diomedea cauta salvini*, which would furnish a first northern hemisphere record of this race, if confirmed. This subspecies is treated as a separate species, Salvin's Albatross, *D. salvini*, by some taxonomists; the adult photographed last year was of the nominate race, *D. c. cauta* (see Cole 2000, *N. Am. Birds* 54:124–135). A Dark-rumped Petrel was seen on the western edge of Cordell Bank 15 Jul (RS, vt. LLu, ph. E. Preston, m.ob.), the location of two previous records for this species. Another was reported without details from a research cruise approximately 50 mi w. of Eureka, *Humboldt*, 28 Jul (Mike Newcomer, *fide* L. Spear). This species has been nearly annual off California since first recorded in 1992. The only Flesh-footed Shearwater reported for the period was off Santa Cruz 23 Jul (SBT). Slightly early Buller's Shearwaters were off Santa Cruz 7 Jul (JiD, DLSh) and Monterey 31 Jul (RT).

Although regular in summer and fall in small numbers from *Marin* to *Monterey*, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel about 3–4 mi. w of Noyo Harbor 30 Jul was only the second for *Mendocino* (†PP, SBT). A large influx of juv. Brown Pelicans noted throughout the region (m.ob.) indicated high reproductive success south of our Region.

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Draining of sump 1-B at Tule Lake N.W.R. created ideal conditions and produced record numbers for several species in *Modoc*: 357 Great Egrets on 30 Jul, 56 Snowy Egrets on 22 Jul, and 1700 White-faced Ibises on 1 Jul (RE). An imm. Little Blue Heron in se. *Sutter* 20–26 Jul was a county first (C.

Hawley, E. Pandolfino). Wayward flocks of White-faced Ibis continued well into June (see Spring report), with 18 at Eureka, *Humboldt*, 8 Jun (M. Kuehner), 20 flying s. past Younger Lagoon, *Santa Cruz*, 14 Jun (JL), and 21 inland at Hopland, *Mendocino*, 16 Jun (RJK). Dawn counts at breeding sites provided population estimates for two major colonies, with tallies of 1799 pairs at Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, 17 Jun (DS, MMcM) and 886 pairs at Leavitt L., *Lassen*, 21 Jun (DS). A group of 9 California Condors released in Sespe in s. California spent time roosting on the observatory at Chews Ridge, *Monterey*, 11 Jun (ph. I. Eberle). Driven off by squirt guns (at the request of researchers in order to deter any learned behavior of sitting on buildings), the birds were several hundred miles south within two hours and never made contact with any of the 14 condors released in *Monterey* (*fide* J. Burnett, Ventana Wilderness Soc.).

American Wigeons nested for the first time in the S.F. Bay area at Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, where a female and 4 young were seen 12 Jun (RJR). A influx of **over 200** Blue-winged Teal was remarkable. Most were in the north and northeast and included record or near-record numbers of 45 at Alexandre Dairy, *Del Norte*, 7 Jun (ADB), 24 at Honey & Leavitt Lakes, *Lassen*, 18 & 21 Jun respectively (DS), 15 at Shasta Valley W.A., *Siskiyou*, 23 Jun (RE) and 20 at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Modoc*, 1 Jul (RE). First county breeding records were obtained in Martinez, *Contra Costa*, 8 Jun (SAG) and at Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, 18 Jun and 17 Jul (RJR). An alternate male Tufted Duck at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc*, 19–20 Jun (†DS) was our 3rd summer record. The significance of last season's nesting attempt of a female Hooded Merganser at Putah Cr., *Yolo*, was diminished by information received concerning escapees from a local captive flock (*fide* JMHu).

Osprey was confirmed breeding in the Santa Cruz Mts. when a report surfaced of a nest active since at least spring 1997 along San Vincente Cr., *Santa Cruz*. Two adults were at the nest 15 May (S. Butler, M. Greene, G. Holmes). The species last bred in the Monterey Bay vicinity in the 1930s.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Common Moorhens near Grenada 18 Jul (RE) provided a very rare nesting record for *Siskiyou*. Adult Pacific Golden-Plovers were at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, 15 Jul (ADB, Eileen Cooper) and Ukiah, *Mendocino*, 22–23 Jul (CEV, GEC et al.). An ad. Lesser Yellowlegs at Chowchilla, *Madera*, 23 Jun was among the earliest fall migrants ever (ph. DR, RC). A presumed ad. Solitary Sandpiper at Sierra Valley, *Plumas*, 8 Jul (†SRv, SAG) eclipsed the previous early record by 10 days. This species is rare anytime in July. A basic-plumaged Wandering Tattler at Pelican Rock, *Santa Cruz*, 1 Jun (DLSu) may have summered locally. Four Sanderlings 20 Jul at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Modoc*, were notably early and numerous inland (MFRb). Five Semipalmated Sandpipers included 4 adults 2–29 Jul and the first juvenile 30 Jul in South San Francisco, *San Mateo* (RSTh). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper 26 Jul at Laguna Cr. marsh, *Santa Cruz* (DLSu) and a presumed ad. Pectoral Sandpiper 22 Jul at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (D. Werner) were expected but our only reports.

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger inland at Davis 9–12 Jun (†DMS, ph. WEH, m.ob.) was a first for *Yolo* and 7th for the C.V. A record 51 Franklin's Gulls was counted at the Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 8 Jul (RE), while one at Davis 21 Jul (JMHu, †DMS) was the seventh for *Yolo*. After nesting last year for the first time in *Monterey*, Heermann's Gulls nested again at Roberts L., Seaside (DR, RC). A third-summer Herring Gull, rare in summer, was well-studied on Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz*, 23 Jul (SBT). Suspected Western Gull nesting on mall rooftops in Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, was confirmed this year (LHe, DLSu), and an unusual inland Western Gull was at Ukiah, *Mendocino*, 29 Jul (CEV, MMtt). A Common Tern was at Bridgeport, *Mono*, where rare, 4 Jun (KNN). The banded Arctic Tern returned to Hayward R.S., *Alameda*, for the 7th year, where it once again paired with a Forster's Tern (RJR); the nest was abandoned in early July. The hybrid young from the successful nesting last year returned to Hayward R.S. 18 Jun (RJR). A Forster's Tern colony at Corte Madera, the only breeding location in *Marin*, started with 3 nests in 1998 and was up to 31 nests this year (RS). Three pairs of Least Terns nested for the 3rd consecutive year near Kettleman City, *Kings* (JSe, SBT). This remains the only known inland breeding location for the California Least Tern. All three nests hatched young, and several hatch-year birds were later seen flying. A Least Tern at Pt. Reyes 24 Jun was only about the ninth for *Marin* (RS). Black Skimmers continue to increase in the region, including the first nesting record for *Monterey* (J.&R. Warriner; the eggs were later lost to a predator). One of two at Corte Madera, *Marin*, had been banded as a chick in August 1998 at Seal Beach in s. California (RS). A Long-billed Murrelet was off Pt. St. George, *Del Norte*, 14 Jul (†EE, L. Detweiler, B. O'Donnel).

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos near Eel R. mouth, *Humboldt*, 25 Jun (†G. Falxa) and Lower Rush Cr., *Mono*, 7 Jun (KNN) provided rare records away from breeding sites. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Meridian, *Sutter*, 22 Jul (C. Swolgaard *fide* J. Snowden) was encouraging; cuckoos are rare anywhere in the C.V. The remains of a fledgling Western Screech-Owl under a Great Horned Owl nest near Crestview 15 Jun was the first nesting confirmation for *Mono* (KNN). Despite thorough coverage, no nesting Black Swifts were detected along the n. coast of *Santa Cruz*, an area where several pairs bred annually through the mid-1990s (DLSu, JL). Six Blacks at Royal Gorge of N. Fork American R., *Placer*, 15 Jul–2 Aug, strongly suggest that nesting took place around some of the large falls in the area (T. Beedy). An impressive 70 Blacks were at Bridalveil Falls, *Mariposa*, 2 Jul (RS). A White-throated Swift 17 Jun at Cooks Valley, *Humboldt*, was in an area where previously unrecorded (M. Widdowson). A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird at a feeder in w. *Nevada* 19 Jul (†D. Lukas) provided one of few records for the w. slope of the Sierra.

The range expansion of Nuttall's Woodpecker continued northward up the S.F. peninsula, with a pair feeding young at the nest at San Bruno, *San Mateo*, 1 Jun (RSTh). Reports of *Empidonax* flycatchers included 11 Willows, all coastal, 4–16 Jun (typical timing), a vagrant Least at Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, 19 Jun (RS), and a Dusky at S.F. 16 Jun (S. Davies). A Say's Phoebe 10 Jun at Glen Canyon, *Santa Cruz* (†B. Scharfenstein), was extremely unseasonal on the coast, as was a Cassin's Kingbird 8 Jul near Pescadero, *San Mateo* (RSTh). *Santa Clara's* resident pair of Cassin's were feeding a fledgling near Gilroy 24 Jun (WGB, Merry Haveman). Vagrant Eastern Kingbirds were noted at *Santa Cruz* 3 Jun (Matthew Gallagher), Bridgeport Res., *Mono*, 4 Jun (KNN), and Redwood Cr. mouth, *Humboldt*, 15 Jun (KI); a late summer bird appeared near Pescadero 31 Jul (DLSu). An Eastern Kingbird nest at Lava Lakes Ranch, *Siskiyou*, 13 Jun was evidently destroyed, but a second nesting was likely attempted (MFRb, RE).

The singing male **White-eyed Vireo** first found 20 May remained on territory at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, to at least 17 Jun (m.ob.), while a second bird was banded

there 12 Jun (JBo). Four migrant Plumbeous Vireos, all singing males, were detected: McKinleyville, *Humboldt*, 20 May–4 Jun (GSL); Big Sur R. mouth 7–8 Jun (JBo) and upper Carmel Valley, both *Monterey*, 7 June (RF); and at Mineral, 13 June (*Tehama*'s first; †JCS, T. Sloat). Vagrant Red-eyed Vireos were at Pt. Reyes 3 Jun (RS, JsC), Big Sur R. mouth 4 Jun (CHo) and lower Carmel Valley 3–30 Jul (Karen Ritchie), and Arcata, *Humboldt*, 4 Jul (LeE).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SILKY-FLYCATCHERS

Single ad. male Purple Martins at Davenport, *Santa Cruz*, 25 Jul (R. Smith) and Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, 26 Jul (AJ) were thought to be post-breeding dispersers. The Bank Swallow colony at Topaz L., *Mono*, continued to expand, with 150 individuals noted 4–8 Jul (Andrew Kirk) and a new colony reported from Honey L., *Lassen* (B. Tatman, *fide* TDM). Unseasonal Banks were at Coyote Creek F.S., *Santa Clara*, 5 Jul (AJ) and near Dixon, *Solano*, 17 Jul (RgM). Three Pygmy Nuthatches 16 mi. east of Klamath R. mouth 30 Jul were just the second ever recorded in *Del Norte* (ADB, PFS). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10–29 Jul at Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz*, was apparently the first to be documented as summering in the Region's lowlands (†DLSu). A Townsend's Solitaire at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 11 Jun was unusually late for the coast (RSTh), but even more unusual was one at Trinidad, *Humboldt*, on the summery date of 4 Jul (KI). Documented evidence at the s. edges of the coastal breeding range of Cedar Waxwing has always been mercurial, so a pair of adults feeding young in Pescadero 1 Jul (†RSTh) was the first confirmed nesting evidence for *San Mateo*. Phainopeplas along Wilson Cr. 6 Jun (2 fem.) and Rush Cr. 11 Jun (2 males) added to the few *Mono* records (KNN).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

For the 3rd consecutive year Northern Parulas nested at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*. Confirming evidence (as in 1998) was limited to a brood patch on a netted female, but careful surveys documented the presence of at least 5 singing males and 2 females (JBo, CHo, DR, RC) from late May into July. Parulas were widespread elsewhere along the coast in June (almost all singing males): 4 more in *Monterey*, another 4 in *San Mateo* and *Humboldt*, 3 each in *Santa Cruz* and on Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, 2 in S.F., one on F.I., and one near Pittsburg 8 Jun, *Contra Costa*'s 3rd record (SAG).

Pt. Reyes had another major run of eastern vagrants in early June, including such rarities as a Golden-winged Warbler singing between 2 Magnolia Warblers 4 Jun (LEd, RS, JsC et al.), 2 Black-throated Green Warblers 2–3 Jun (RS), an *albilora* Yellow-throated 19 Jun (RS), 3 Ovenbirds 4–18 Jun (†AME, RS, LLu, CLu et al.), and a singing Hooded 20–21 Jun (EDG, RS). F.I. had single Virginia's, Cape May, and Blackburnian, and 5 Ovenbirds (PCp). Six more Ovenbirds were along the coast in June: 2 banded at Big Sur R. mouth 16–25 Jun (male may have been trying to summer, JBo), 2 songsters in *San Mateo* (RbF, DLSu), and 2 more in S.F. 5 & 17 Jun (HuC, Calvin Lou). Also unexpected were a male Magnolia Warbler along Navarro R., *Mendocino*, 28–30 Jun (J. Ward, RJK et al.), and 4 more on F.I. *Monterey's* first spring Blackpoll Warbler was singing in Salinas 2 Jun (CT); F.I. hosted one on the mid-summer date of 13 Jul (PCp). Another F.I. rarity was a Kentucky Warbler 4 Jun (PCp). A singing Hooded was on Mt. Davidson, S.F., 17 Jun (C. Lou) and a mid-summer female was along the Eel R., *Humboldt*, 14 Jul (†PAH). More regular spring vagrant warblers on the coast and F.I. in June or early July were 4 Tennessees, 10 Chestnut-sideds, 4 Black-and-whites, and 19 American Redstarts. In *Mono*, e. of the Sierra, "eastern" warblers included a singing Magnolia along Rush Cr. 11 Jun (KNN), and a Black-and-white and a Northern Waterthrush in June.

Among "western" warblers of note were single Townsend's s. of their breeding range at Grizzly Flat, *Mendocino*, 24 Jun (CEV, MMtt) and near Raker Peak in Lassen N.P., *Shasta*, 19 Jun (B. Mulrooney, S. Stevens). Hermit Warblers at The Indians, *Monterey*, 12 Jun (RbF) and Tilden Park, *Contra Costa*, 26 Jul (imm. female; Brian Fitch) may suggest breeding at locales where none has yet been documented. Two Summer Tanagers were among the vagrants on Pt. Reyes, *Marin*, 2–3 Jun (RS) and F.I. 9 Jun.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Rufous-crowned Sparrows were located at 12 sites in *Solano* (*fide* RLCL), while the lower and upper limits of their range were documented in *Butte*, *Placer*, and *El Dorado* (BDW). Single Clay-colored and Brewer's Sparrows reached F.I. in June. Sparrows near the n. limits of their range were a Black-chinned on Pacific Ridge, *Lake*, 5 Jun (BDW) and a Black-throated in Butte Valley, *Siskiyou*, 15 Jun (MFRo). Better coverage of their habitat yielded Grasshopper Sparrows at new sites in *Mendocino* (RJK) and a sizable disjunct population in the Bald Hills, e. of Orick, *Humboldt* (ADB), but one on a brush-covered ridge above Yreka, *Siskiyou*, 29 Jun was strangely out-of-habitat (RE).

At least 30 coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks from *Humboldt* to *Monterey* (13 in *Santa Cruz* alone) and out to F.I. were unprecedented numbers; many were ad. males at feeders. It is hard to say how much of this is incipient range expansion and how much is better reporting from feeder-watchers. A couple in *Mono* were routine, but one well inland in *Siskiyou* 14 Jun along the Gazelle-Callahan Rd. was not (MFRo). A male Blue Grosbeak 2 Jun at Chadbourne Gulch on Hwy 1 (†JRW) was *Mendocino's* 2nd record. Another vagrant was on Pt. Reyes 3 Jun (RS, JsC), but new breeding pairs were located on Liberty I., *Solano* (RgM). Indigo Buntings also had a strong showing, including singing males for 2nd consecutive summers at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa*, 1 Jun (SAG) and near Boonville, *Mendocino*, 31 May–2 Jun (CEV et al.), 5 on F.I., and *Shasta's* 2nd record at Redding 5–6 Jul (†SRv, BED, BY et al.).

A singing Bobolink was on Pt. Reyes 6 Jun (RS), and a singing Yellow-headed Blackbird was at McNabney marsh, *Contra Costa*, 8 Jun (SAG), both unusual. Great-tailed Grackles at the edges of their ever-expanding range were nesting at two sites in *Monterey* (DR, RC, R.J. Adams); at Almaden L., *Santa Clara* (JMa, MJM et al.); and in McNabney marsh (SAG). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole at San Carlos, *San Mateo*, 14 Jul (RSTh) was not just a vagrant but also well out-of-season; an oriole on F.I. 7 Jun showed characteristics of a Baltimore × Bullock's hybrid (*fide* PCp). Lawrence's Goldfinch enjoyed another strong season, with widespread coastal nesting noted in *Santa Cruz/Monterey* (m.ob.), new sites located in arid foothills in *Placer* and *Colusa* (BDW), northward expansion apparent in *Mendocino* (RJK, CEV), and even a lone male in Shasta R. canyon, *Siskiyou*, 1–17 Jul (John Kafel, RE, MFRo).

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Alan D. Barron (*Del Norte*), Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), Phil Capitulo, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, Josiah Clark, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), **Hugh Cotter** (*S.F. city*), Jim Danzenbaker, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Mark Eaton, Leo Edson, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias, Lee Elias, **David Fix** (*Humboldt*), Rick Fournier, Rob Fowler, **James H. Gain** (*Stanislaus*), **Steven A. Glover** (*Contra Costa*), Edward D. Greaves, W. Edward Harper,

Laird Henkel, Pablo A. Herrera, Craig Hohenberger, Joan M. Humphrey, **John E. Hunter** (*Trinity*), Ken Irwin, Alvaro Jaramillo, **Robert J. Keiffer** (*Mendocino*), **Robin L.C. Leong** (*Napa* & *Solano*), Gary S. Lester, Cindy Lieurance, Les Lieurance, Janet Linthicum, Michael J. Mammoser, **Timothy D. Manolis** (*Sacramento* & *Yolo*), John Mariani, Matthew Matthiessen, Mac McCormick, Bert McKee, **Peter J. Metropulos** (*San Mateo* & *Mono*), Roger Muscat, Kristie N. Nelson, **Jude C. Power** (*Humboldt*), **Peter Pyle** (F.I.), **Robert J. Richmond** (*Alameda*), **Michael F. Robbins** (*Amador*), **Don Roberson** (*Monterey*), Steve Rovell, **Ruth A. Rudesill** (*Sonoma*), Jeff Seay, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, David Shuford, Dan Singer, Paul F. Springer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling, Dan M. Stoebel, Emilie Strauss, **David L. Suddjian** (DLSu; *Santa Cruz*), Chris Tenney, Richard Ternullo, Ronald S. Thorn, Chuck E. Vaughn, **Kent Van Vuren** (*Merced* & *San Benito*), **Jerry R. White** (*Lake*), **Brian D. Williams** (*Placer* & *Nevada*), **Bob & Carol Yutzy** (*Shasta*), m.ob.= many observers. Many more observers were not specifically cited, but all are appreciated.

Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 352.

southern pacific coast

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Dry conditions prevailed throughout the Region. Some noteworthy waterbirds were found at the Salton Sea, and the first fall migrant shorebirds reached the Region at the end of June. As always, late spring migrants continued to move through the Region into the latter half of June, and included a few vagrants from the East.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, ne. *Kern*); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., *Inyo*); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, e. *Kern*); N.E.S.S. (north end of the Salton Sea, *Riverside*); S.E.S.S. (south end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, *Kern*). Since virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

BOOBIES THROUGH PTARMIGANS

An ad. Masked Booby, a casual straggler to California waters, was associating with nesting Western Gulls on San Nicolas I. 5 Jun (SH). An ad. Little Blue Heron inland at S.E.S.S. 1 Jul (BED) was the only one reported away from coastal *San Diego*. Three **Glossy Ibis** photographed at S.E.S.S. 1 Jul (PAG, GMcC, MAP), with at least one reported in that area through 6 Aug (SK), probably included the one near Calipatria on 27 May (Spring report). One in *San Bernardino* 29–31 Aug 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:104) was the first to be reported in California, and it will be interesting to learn weather these birds are reaching California by crossing the Southwest or moving northward from the w. coast of s. Mexico. A Wood Stork in Sorento Valley, *San Diego*, 8 Jul+ (CDeW) was on the coast where now a casual to accidental straggler.

The two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks found at S.E.S.S. 28 May (Spring report) remained through 22 Jun (AK, GMcC) and established the 16th record for the state. No more than 2 pairs of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were present around S.E.S.S. this summer (BM), with no evidence of successful nesting; this species is on the verge of being extirpated as a breeding bird in California. A Brant far inland in Bishop, *Inyo*, through 31 Jul (T&JH) had been present since 11 May, and another at Inyokern, *Kern*, through 16 Jun (TM) had been present since 16 May. Four Surf Scoters at Buena Vista L., *Kern*, 2 Jul (JMC), 2+ at

N.E.S.S. 1 Jun–22 Jul (GMcC), 3+ at S.E.S.S. 6 Jun–30 Jul (GMcC), and a female White-winged Scoter at N.E.S.S. 1 Jun–16 Jul (GMcC) were all summering inland. A Long-tailed Duck at Pt. Piedras Blancas, *San Luis Obispo*, 1 Jun (RR) was a late migrant flying north.

A Mississippi Kite seen catching insects in the air over the Lucerne Valley 12 June (JE), was at an expected time of the year, and only the 2nd for *San Bernardino*. An ad. Bald Eagle at L. Henshaw, *San Diego*, 18 Jun (PU) and at nearby L. Cuyamaca 20 Jun (DB) were unexpected considering the time of the year. An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk over Arcadia, *Los Angeles*, 9 Jun (TEW) and an adult in the Inyo Mts. 16 Jun (REW) were unseasonal. A Northern Goshawk in the Inyo Mts. 16 Jun (REW) was in an area where nesting is suspected. The pair of Harris's Hawks near Boulevard, *San Diego* (Spring report), fledged 3 young 12 Jul (PU), establishing the first successful nesting since the species was extirpated as a breeding bird in California in the 1950's. Up to 25 sub-adult Swainson's Hawks near L. Henshaw 17–25 Jun (SSm, GRe, JEP) were unexpected considering the date, but evidently attracted to the incredible number of grasshoppers in that area. Single ad. Zone-tailed Hawks near Warner Springs, *San Diego*, 24 Jun (EH) and on Mt. Laguna, *San Diego*, 22 Jul (DWA) suggest the possibility of nesting in these areas. A White-tailed Ptarmigan near Piute Pass w. of Bishop 19 Jul (JC) was near the s. limit of this introduced species' expanding range in the Sierra Nevada.

SANDPIPERS THROUGH SKIMMERS

A Solitary Sandpiper near Olancha, *Inyo*, 5 Jul (REM) was an early fall migrant, and followed by 1-2 at C.L. 24-31 Jul (SSt). The presence of a pair of Spotted Sandpipers with chicks near Norco, *Riverside*, 6 Jul (HK) established nesting in that area. A Red Knot on Mystic L. near Lakeview, *Riverside*, 28 Jul (CMcG) and a Sanderling at C.L. 24 Jul (SSt) were the only ones reported inland away from the Salton Sea. Up to 2 ad. Semipalmated Sandpipers on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine, *Inyo*, 10–13 Jul (JLD) and one at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 1 Jul (JM) were fall migrants. An ad. **Red-necked Stint** was seen briefly at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, 13 Jul (BKH). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper at C.L. 14 Jul (SSt) and another near San Pedro, *Los Angeles*, 31 Jul (DMH) were the earliest this fall. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Sorento Valley 23 Jul (SSm) and another in Goleta, *Santa Barbara*, 25-26 Jul (WF) were noteworthy since adults are rare in California. A "winnowing" Common Snipe in Upper Lockwood Valley, *Ventura*, 7 May (WW) suggests the possibility of nesting at that location, and one at G.H.P. 23 Jul (KSG) was an early fall migrant.

A Parasitic Jaeger well seen at the Whitewater R. mouth at N.E.S.S. 1 Jul (CAM) is only the second credibly recorded on the Salton Sea in summer; Pomarine Jaeger has proven to be the "expected" jaeger on the Salton Sea at this time of the year. Laughing Gulls were sitting on 3 nests at S.E.S.S. 17–19 May (BM) and a chick fledged 28 Aug (KCM); there are only two previous records of attempted nesting at the Salton Sea since the 1950s (*W. Birds* 31:106–111). An ad. Laughing Gull, rare along the coast, at Guadalupe Dunes, *Santa Barbara*, 16 Jul (JCR) coincided with an influx of post-breeding birds to the Salton Sea. A Franklin's Gull at C.L. 14 Jun (SSt) was the only one reported. The ad. Heermann's Gull present at S.E.S.S. since 11 Mar (Spring report) was still present at the end of the period (KLG); at least 7 more at various locations around the Salton Sea in Jul, including 4+ around the Whitewater R. mouth 15–16 Jul (GMcC, MAP), was more than expected. A first-year Thayer's Gull around the Whitewater R. mouth at N.E.S.S. 23 Apr–6 Aug (MAP, GMcC, AME) appears to be the first known to summer in California. A first-year Sabine's Gull at the Whitewater R. mouth 15–16 Jul (GMcC) is the 7th to be found around the Salton Sea in summer.

Two Elegant Terns were at S.E.S.S. 6 Jun (KCM, BM) and a Royal/Elegant Tern was there 15 Jun (BM); Royal is accidental and Elegant is a casual straggler to the Salton Sea. On the coast, the Bolsa Chica tern colony again moved north to the nearby Port of Los Angeles where 10–15 pairs of Royal and 3500 Elegant Terns were attending nests in June (CTC); a **Sandwich Tern** was with them 21–23 Jun (MA, NM) and an apparent Sandwich × Elegant hybrid was there 26 Jun (CTC). An Arctic Tern near Oceanside, *San Diego*, 4 Jun (DP) had oil on its underparts, as has been the case for most previous onshore birds in spring. Single ad. Arctic Terns inland at N.E.S.S. 1 and 9 Jun (GMcC), and a first-year bird near Salton City 22 Jun (GMcC), fall within the period of previous spring records at the Salton Sea. At least 2 Least Terns at N.E.S.S. 9 Jun–5 Aug (GMcC, MAP, AME), single birds at Salton City 1 Jul (MAP) and 17 Aug (GMcC), and at S.E.S.S. 6 and 22 Jun (GMcC) were at an inland location where 2-3 are found most years, but one at C.L. 19 Jun (SSt), another at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 1 Jul (MSanM), and a third at the Prado Basin near Corona, *Riverside*, 4 Jul (DSP) were unexpected. A Black Skimmer at the Prado Basin near Corona 28-30 Jun (DSP) was inland and away from the Salton Sea.

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at G.H.P. 4 Jun (KSG) was at an expected time and location for a spring migrant. However, single birds at S.E.S.S. 22 Jun (GMcC), Brea, *Orange*, 23 Jun (TN), Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, 13 June (KG), and California City, *Kern*, 17 Jun (MSanM), and 2–3 at G.H.P. 17 June (KSG), with one remaining through 30 Jul, indicated a late movement of these birds through S. California at that time. One at China Ranch, *Inyo*, 20 Jun (MSanM), 12 pairs at the S.F.K.R.P. during the period (SAL), and 2 in the Prado Basin near Corona in Jun (DSP) were at known breeding localities, but a calling bird in riparian habitat near Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, 1-2 Jul (DMC) was away from any known nesting site. A calling Common Nighthawk in Goleta 14 Jun (GBW) was only the 3rd to be found in *Santa Barbara*. Two Chimney Swifts over downtown Los Angeles 3 Jun (KLG) were believed to be summering locally. A pair of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers evidently nesting along the Santa Ana R. near Mentone, *San Bernardino*, in May (DRW) were west of the species' known breeding range.

Over 40 Willow Flycatchers at G.H.P. 11 Jun (KSG) demonstrate how common this species can be as a late migrant in the deserts, and the latest migrant reported was at F.C.R. 21 Jun (T & JH). About 25 territorial males of the endangered subspecies *extimus* were at S.F.K.R.P. in July (MJW), 14-16 territorial males were along the Santa Ynez R. *Santa Barbara* 21 Jul+ (CF), and a pair near Fillmore during the summer (JGr) provided the first record for breeding in *Ventura* in decades. A Least Flycatcher at G.H.P. 17 Jun (KSG, TEW) was the first reported in spring in e. *Kern*. At least 5 Vermilion Flycatcher territories were located in the Victorville/Apple Valley area, *San Bernardino*, during the period (SJM). The presence of a pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers with 3 recently fledged young at Borrego Springs 26–31 Aug (MBS) established the first record for *San Diego*; elsewhere along the w. edge of this species' expanding range, 6 were at S.F.K.R.P. 8 July (RAB) and an estimated 8 pairs were along the Mojave R. near Victorville throughout

the period (SJM). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at S. Belridge, *Kern*, in May (Spring report) evidently paired with a Western Kingbird and was still present 9 Jul (JM).

Singing White-eyed Vireos, casual stragglers to California, were at Vandenberg Air Force Base, *Santa Barbara*, 8–12 Jun (JGa) and in Rancho San Diego, *San Diego*, 5–15 Jul (PF). Encouraging were at least 7 singing Bell's Vireos at Santa Fe and Hansen Dams, *Los Angeles*, 1–2 Jul (KLG) and 6 pairs along the Mojave R. between Victorville and Oro Grande through the summer (SJM). Up to 2 vagrant Red-eyed Vireos were at G.H.P. 17–18 Jun (KSG), single birds were on San Nicolas I. 17 Jun (RAH) and in Goleta 23 Jun (KLW), and possible summering birds were at S.F.K.R.P. 22 Jun (PLW) and 25 Jun–5 Jul (RAB). A Plumbeous Vireo on the e. slope of the Piute Mts., *Kern*, 1 Jul (TEW) was in appropriate mature Pinyon Pine breeding habitat. A Hutton's Vireo on the n. slope of the Piute Mts. 7 Jul (TEW) was well away from any known nesting area.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WOOD-WARBLERS

Fifty-seven active Purple Martin nests were found in the Tehachapi Mts., *Kern*, 29 Jun–5 Jul (BW); this is believed to be the largest breeding population in S. California. A Mountain Chickadee at G.H.P. throughout the period (KSG) established the first summer record for e. *Kern*, and a White-breasted Nuthatch there 23 Jul (KSG) was the earliest ever in fall. Three singing Winter Wrens in the Greenhorn Mts., *Kern*, 9 Jul (TEW) were at the southernmost limit of their breeding range in the Sierra Nevada; intriguing was a well-described individual farther s. at 7400 ft on Breckenridge Mtn. 29 Jul (AS). A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Palomar Mtn. S.P., *San Diego*, 7 Jul (SJ) was south of this species known breeding range. A pair of Western Bluebirds at a nest in Mojave 10 Jun (TEW) provided the first breeding record in e. *Kern*. A Gray Catbird, a rare straggler to California, was on San Nicolas I. 18 Jun (RAH), one was banded near Lone Pine, *Inyo*, 20 Jun (WR) and a third was at Camp Pendleton, *San Diego*, 28 Jun (PAG).

A late spring vagrant Tennessee Warbler was near Independence, *Inyo*, 12 Jun (CMcC). In addition to the 20+ N. Parulas in spring (Spring report), 8 were found along the coast 1 Jun–29 Jul, including a pair feeding a chick at Gaviota Hot Springs, *Santa Barbara*, 22–23 Jul (LRB); 4 more were inland at S.F.K.R.P. 11 Jun–16 Jul (RAB), one was at G.H.P. 18 Jun (BED), and another was near Niland, *Imperial*, 9 Jun (GMcC). A female Chestnut-sided Warbler on San Nicolas I. 16–17 Jun (RAH) and a male there 17–18 Jun (RAH) were very late spring vagrants. Eleven Black-and-white Warblers 1 Jun–6 Jul included 3 along the coast, and 8 in e. *Kern* and *Inyo*. Four late spring American Redstarts were in e. *Kern* and *Inyo* 8–24 Jun, and a suspected summering bird was in Irvine, *Orange*, 16 Jul (JF). A lost female Prothonotary Warbler was in Baker, *San Bernardino*, 6–13 Jun (BD). Five Ovenbirds were found 2–23 Jun, with single birds along the coast on San Nicolas I. 17 Jun (RAH) and in Goleta 23–24 Jun (KB), and inland at G.H.P. 17 Jun (KSG), Baker 6 Jun (BD), and in El Centro 2 Jun (KZK). The only Northern Waterthrush reported was one at Silverwood L., *San Bernardino*, 3 Jun (DG). A male Mourning Warbler on San Nicolas I. 17–18 Jun (RAH) is one of only a few found in spring in the Region. A male Hooded Warbler in Goleta 19 Jun (GBW) was the only one found.

TANAGERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

A well-described Hepatic Tanager in Long Beach 9 Jun (RB) provides the first acceptable record of a spring vagrant in *Los Angeles*; a pair was at a traditional nesting site along upper Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mts. 11 Jun+ (SK). In their California strongholds 39 Summer Tanagers were counted at S.F.K.R.P. 8 Jul (RAB) and 20 pairs were estimated summering along the Mojave R. near Victorville (SJM); the species continues to expand its range westward, with 7 pairs along San Felepe Creek in Anza-Borrego Desert S.P. and a pair in nearby Borrego Palm Canyon Jun–Jul (PJ, LH) being the first known to nest in *San Diego*; a pair on Cuyamaca Peak, *San Diego*, 10–18 Jun (GRo, GH) were well above the lowland riparian habitat normally used for nesting. Early fall Western Tanagers near Victorville 13 Jul (RAE) and in El Centro 15 Jul (KZK) appeared less than a month after the last of the spring migrants at G.H.P. 18 Jun (KSG).

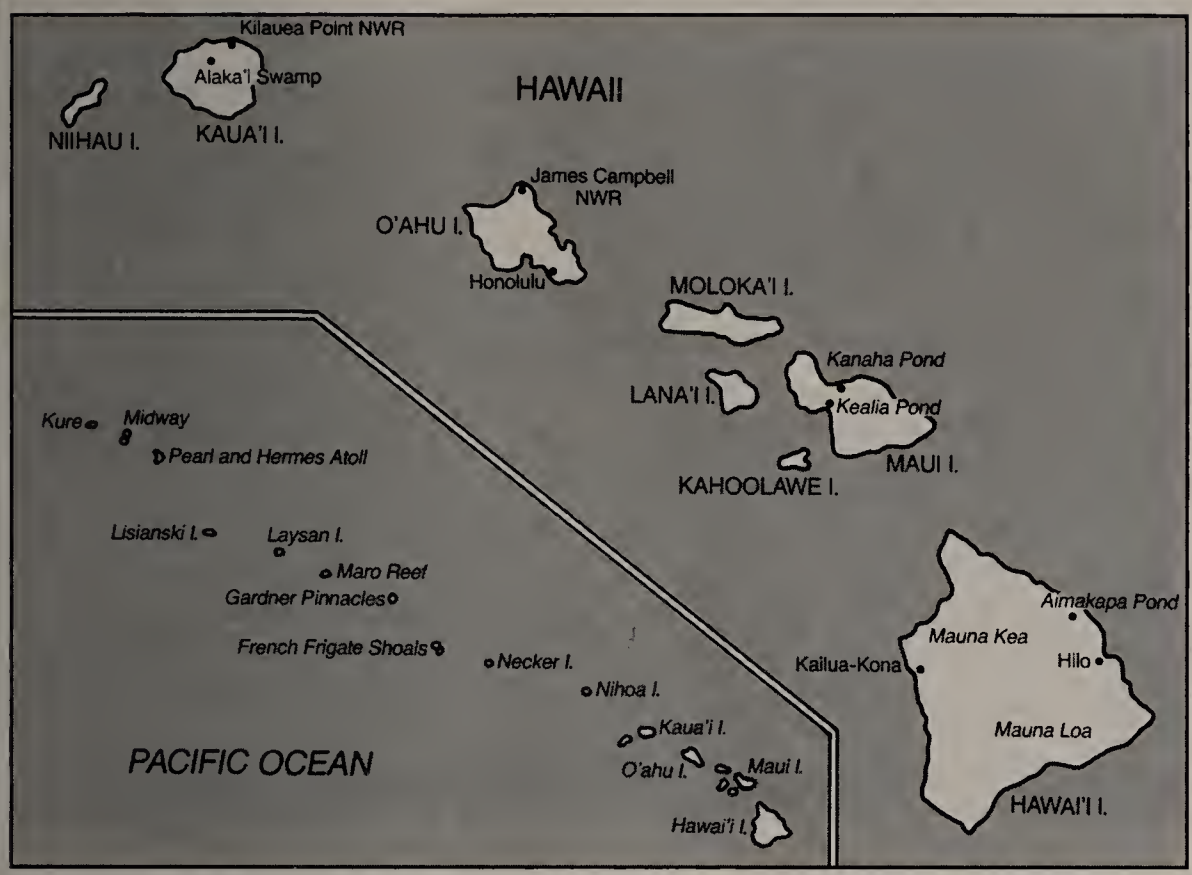
Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 1 Jun-21 Jul were evenly divided between the coastal and interior counties. Nineteen Indigo Buntings were at S.F.K.R.P. 8 Jul (RAB), 3 territorial males were in the Prado Basin near Corona all summer (DSP), and at least 10 other territorial males were scattered throughout the Region, including males paired with Lazuli Buntings in Jacumba, *San Diego*, 28 Jun–1 Jul (JW) and at Oak Creek, *Inyo*, 21 Jun (WR), the latter with fledged young. An imm. male Orchard Oriole at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, 4 Jun (T & JH) was a late spring vagrant. The **Black-backed (Abeille's) Oriole** found near Imperial Beach 9 April (Spring report) remained through 4 Jul (JL). A male Bobolink, a casual straggler to the coast in spring, was in Goleta 11 Jun (DMC).

EXOTICS

A Black-throated Magpie-Jay nest was found near Imperial Beach (BH), with the pair tending a fledged young 29 Jul (SSm), and a pair of Nothern Cardinals also fledged young in the same area (BH). An illegal release of Yellow-fronted Canaries (*Serinus mozambicus*) near El Monte, *Los Angeles*, in Jun (KLG) may have involved several hundred birds; observers should be alert for continuing sightings of this African species.

Cited observers (County coordinators in boldface): Douglas W. Aguillard, Mathew Amalong, Larry R. Ballard, Robert A. Barnes, Richard Barth, Dave Bittner, Karen Bridgers, Jaime M. Chavez, Charles T. Collins, **David M. Compton** (*Santa Barbara*), Elizabeth Copper (*San Diego*), Jack Crowther, Brian E. Daniels, Bill Deppe, Cheryl DeWitt, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom M. Edell** (*San Luis Obispo*), Alan M. Eisner, Richard A. Erickson, Jeremy Ertl, Peter Famolaro, Chris Farmer, John Fitch, Wes Fritz, John Gallo (JGa), **Kimball L. Garrett** (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsburg, Dave Goodward, Jim Greaves (JGr), Kay Green, Robert A. Hamilton, Edward Hall, Bill Hass, Lorie Hargrove, Sandee Harvill, Gjon Hazard, D. Mitchell Heindel, **Tom & Jo Heindel** (*Inyo*), Brad K. Hines, Stefan Johansson, Paul Jorgensen, Alan Kalin, Howard King, Sandy Koonce, Steven A. Laymon, John Lewis, Curtis A. Marantz, Robert E. Maurer, **Guy McCaskie** (*Imperial*), Chris McCreedy, Chet McGaugh, Terri Middlemiss, Bob Miller, Kathy C. Molina, Joseph Morlan, Nathan Mudry, Stephen J. Myers, Tom Newhouse, Dennis Parker, **Michael A. Patten** (*San Bernardino* and *Riverside*), Dharm S. Pellegrini, James E. Pike, Ginger Rebstock (GRe), William Richardson, John C. Robinson, Geoff Rogers (GRo), Richard Rowlett, Michael San Miguel, Alison Sheehey, Brad Sillasen, Gregory P. Smith, Sue Smith (SSm), Susan Steele (SSt), Mary Beth Stowe, Philip Unitt, Grant B. Weyburne, Richard E. Webster, **Walter Wehtje** (*Ventura*), Mary J. Whitfield, Kathleen L. Whitney, Brian Williams, Pamela L. Williams, **Douglas R. Willick** (*Orange*), Jim Wilson, **John C. Wilson** (*Kern*), Thomas E. Wurster and Kenneth Z. Kurland. An additional 30+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.

hawaiian islands



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Rainfall was heavier than normal at most locations over the summer. That has helped ease the ongoing drought, but rainfall for the year remains below normal at all locations. Tropical Storm *Daniel* passed north of Hawai'i Island on 31 Jul, but the storm had little effect on weather over the islands.

Abbreviations: Chevron (Chevron Refinery at Kalaeloa, O'ahu); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui); Kii (Ki'i Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O'ahu); K.P. (Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kaua'i); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu).

ALBATROSSES THROUGH TERNS

One adult Laysan Albatross and one chick seen through 23 Jul were the only birds remaining at the breeding colony at K.P. (CM). An unusually large group of 15,000–20,000 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were seen flying ahead of a rain shower offshore of K.P. (CM). A Kermadec Petrel seen regularly at K.P. throughout the season (CM) is almost certainly the same individual that has appeared the past three years. At least one ad. Masked Booby and one sub-adult were observed regularly at K.P. 1–20 Jul (CM). Masked Boobies are rarely reported away from O'ahu in the main islands.

A group of 24 captive-raised Hawaiian Geese (*Endangered*) released at Hanalei in early April had all survived through the end of July (CM, TT). Seventy-eight Hawaiian Geese at Crater Hill, K.P., 27 Jul (CM) was an unusually high count for anywhere in the state. A late Northern Shoveler at Hanalei 1 Jun (CM) was not seen again. A Green-winged Teal was found there 17 Jul (CM), an unusually late date.

Seven Hawaiian Coot chicks (*Endangered*) hatched at Chevron 2 Jun (GS). All 7 were still present through 31 Jul, the first nesting record at that location. A second pair of Hawaiian Coots was observed building a nest 16 Jun. By 7 Jul, there were four eggs in the nest (GS).

Hawaiian Stilts (*Endangered*) had good nesting seasons at Kealia (MN), Honouliuli (MSi), and Chevron (PD, GS), but nesting success was poor at Waiawa and Kii (Msi). It is often difficult to distinguish over-summering shorebirds from early migrants, but fall migrants were clearly arriving by late July. Forty-one Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Waiawa 26 Jul (GF), and 101 were counted at Kii 30 Jul. (PD). A Semipalmated Plover was seen at Kii 27 Jul (Msi). One to four Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii through the summer (MSi) were probably over-summering, but the 7 seen on 30 Jul (PD) probably included some returning migrants. A summer-plumaged Sanderling was at Kinikini Ditch, Kaua'i, 21 Jul (CM).

The only gulls reported over the summer season were a Ring-billed Gull at Kinikini Ditch Jun 19 (CM), a Laughing Gull at Ele'ele Harbor, Kaua'i, 26 Jun (JD), and a Franklin's Gull at Midway in mid–Jul (PP). Gulls are uncommon in the Hawaiian Islands, especially in summer.

SA A boat trip from Kaua'i to Lehua Rock 19 Jun produced some of the most unusual sightings of the season. Lehua is a small rocky island off the n. coast of Ni'ihau, about 18 miles w. of Kaua'i. A sub-adult Great Blue Heron was spotted on Lehua (DK, ph. †CM), a most unusual location. A **South Polar Skua** was observed chasing shearwaters about 3 miles sw. of Kaua'i (†CM). A medium-gray tern about 5 miles w. of Kaua'i did not appear to be a Gray-backed Tern, the only medium-gray tern breeding in the main Hawaiian Islands, but was not seen clearly enough to allow a positive identification (†CM). One Christmas Shearwater, 22 Band-rumped Storm Petrels, and 15–20 Newell's Shearwaters were also reported.

Little Terns nested on Midway Island again this summer, following last summer's first nesting record. Three chicks were present in mid-Jul (NH). Single Least Terns were observed at Waiawa 3 Jun and at Honouliuli 6 Jun and 6 Jul (KH, MSi, VY). Single small terns at Kealia 1 & 10 Jun (MN) were not seen well enough to determine the species.

PARROTS THROUGH PASSERINES

Six Rose-ringed Parakeets were observed in downtown Honolulu 14 Jun, and 10–15 were reported at the same location 20 Jul (MO). This introduced species has been established on the main Hawaiian Islands since at least 1988, but distribution and numbers are poorly known.

Forty-eight active nests of the Guam Swiftlet (*Endangered*) were found on a visit to the breeding colony in N. Halawa Valley, O'ahu, 11 Jul (DS, GS, EV), suggesting at least 96 adults in the colony. This is the only known nesting site in the Hawaiian Islands. Both the number of nests and the apparent number of adults are much higher than any previous counts. The Guam Swiftlet is native to the Mariana Islands, and the birds on Oahu are descendants of birds transplanted from Guam in the early 1960s.

The introduced Japanese Bush-Warbler continues to expand its range on Hawai'i Island. Over 20 were reported in early Jun in Kawainui Valley near the north end of the island. (KB *fide* TP).

SA A Maui Parrotbill chick (*Endangered*) hatched 21 Jul at the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center, Hawai'i I., the first time this species has been bred in captivity.

Maui 'Amakihi have been reported recently along the Hana Highway, Maui, near sea level (*fide* DP, LT). The presence of these native forest birds at lower elevations is encouraging. It may be an indication these species are becoming better adapted to mosquito-borne diseases prevalent at low elevations.

Single Saffron Finches were seen in three locations in Hilo, Hawai'i I., and two were seen in Honoka'a, Hawai'i I., 11 Jun (TP). These exotics have been abundant on the leeward (w.) side of Hawai'i I. for years. They now appear to be spreading northward along the windward (e.) side of the island.

Contributors: David Adams, Kealii Bio, Chad Castle, Jim Denny, Arleone Dibben, Peter Donaldson, George Fisher, Kathy Hachey, Nancy Hoffman, Glenn Klingler, Eleanor Koes, David Kuhn, Richard May, Christian Melgar, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Doug Pratt, Thane Pratt, Peter Pyle, Robert Pyle, Mike Silbernagle, David Smith, Gordon Smith, Roger Sorrell, Lance Tanino, Tom Telfer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Eric VanderWerf, Abby Brown-Watson, David Watson, Vida Yap.

west indies

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As Andrew Dobson of Bermuda aptly describes, this season is the nadir for bird activity. The other seasons offer those willing to explore the pond, beach, woodlot, marsh, and horizon a prize or a reward for their efforts. Migrants are the spice of an otherwise common fare, the unforgettable intruder in neighborhood harmony, the unexpected tryst of bird and watcher. One should always be prepared for the spring straggler and the early fall transient. One might (or perhaps should) also ask if there is story in these trends. Who is watching that horizon? So, for those dedicated summer season birders, these birds are for you.

The tropical, breeding season extends beyond this short reporting period; however, there are few reports of indigenous birds and their habitats from contributors during this time. The ever-quiet summer season in the West Indies still has a few surprises or gifts to those who are persistent. For example, the elusive Grenada Dove was seen in the Mt. Hartman area and provides an opportunity yet for those willing to make the best of two trips if necessary, once in the morning or in the afternoon. Next time you are in Cuba, check out the Playa Largo region, where C&SG managed to find all five quail-dove species. Another species that is somewhat troubled is the West Indian Whistling-Duck, although it may not seem like it at Grand Cayman, where hundreds of birds are being fed by a local farmer. This conservation effort may be responsible for emigrants populating other areas and keeping the gene pool healthy.

No early season cyclone activity disturbed birds or birders, but the lull may have contributed to wider spread or longer migrant stays in the Lesser Antilles; a La Niña effect? Finally, thanks to Mark Gawn, who recently returned to Canada from an extended stay in Barbados where he helped to contribute much to the remarkable records and Martin Frost's reports.

Abbreviations: Bd. (Barbados); Be. (Bermuda); Cu. (Cuba); G.C. (Grand Cayman I.); Ha. (Haiti); Ja. (Jamaica); P.R. (Puerto Rico).

PETRELS THROUGH TERNS

The last date of departure for resident Cahow from Nonsuch Is., Be., was 10 Jul. Cory's and Greater Shearwaters could be still be seen passing northeastwards off

the South Shore of Be in mid-Jun (AD). Bermuda's first summer record of Double-crested Cormorant was noted 8 Jun at Nonsuch I. (JC et al.). Two ad. Neotropical Cormorants in non-breeding dress were well studied at Falmouth, Ja., fish ponds 17 Jun (C&SG). Least Bitterns were noted at Falmouth, Ja., 17 Jun, and Patrick Island Rd., G.C., 24 Jun (both C&SG). Although two Green Herons, one of which was displaying and another male was heard, were noted at South Pond, Be. (EA), 12 Jun, no evidence of breeding was reported. At Trou Caiman, Ha., near Port-au-Prince, 250+ Greater Flamingos were noted 29 Jul (JRC, JB, DB).

West Indian Whistling-Ducks numbered 300+ at Willies pig farm, G.C., where they come to be fed (C&SG); 56 were counted 9 Jun (PRR *fide* C&SG) near La Baleen, NP, Cu, and a singleton noted 23 Jul at Cano Tiburones, P.R., provided only the 2nd record for that location in the last few years (*fide* MO). Masked Ducks numbered ten at Bd. 23 Jul. Eighteen Ruddy Ducks were seen at Trou Caiman, Ha., 4 Jul (JRC et al.) Ruddy Ducks (two males, three females were noted at Lake Antoine, Grenada (hereafter Gr.) were noted 27 & 30 Jul (FH). One of the rarest raptors in the region, Gundlach's Hawk, was noted near Zapata Swamp, Cu., 13 Jun (OG, C&SG).

Black-bellied Plovers began to arrive at Be. 4 Jul at Spittal Pond (AD). Wilson's Plovers, apparently of the South American subspecies *C. w. cinnamominus*, were found 26 & 30 Jul in three locations on Grenada; Mt. Hartman (7), True Blue (6), and two at Rex Grenadian Hotel where one female was on eggs. Eight Whimbrels were present throughout the summer at Be. An imm. Great Black-backed Gull remained through the summer at Be. At Trou Caiman, Ha., 29 Jul, Crouse et al. found 8 Gull-billed Terns working the edge of the shallow lake.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Two Grenada Doves were noted at Mt. Hartman Dove Sanctuary 26–31 Jul (FH). Several others were heard during the period, attesting to the potential for encountering one of only about 100 individuals left on the island, and thus the planet. Eurasian Collared-Dove is being reported from Saba, where it was seen at Windwardside (MW-M, EP). Three West Indian Quail-Dove, another elusive denizen of dry forests of the region, were noted near Laguna Tortugero refuge, P.R., 23–24 July (MO). Two ad. Blue-headed Quail-Doves were s. of Sopillar, Cu., 11 Jun (C&SG). Jamaica's endemic Black-billed Parrots (8–19) were noted on the Sherwood Forest road e. of Port Antonio (C&SG). According to CG, the parrots are difficult to find in this area and perhaps unusual this far east in Ja. A nest of Chuck-will's-widows containing two eggs was found (NK) 6 Jun near Little Harbour Lighthouse, Abaco, for one of the few but increasing reports of this species breeding in the Bahamas. A Belted Kingfisher found at Nonsuch I., Be., 2 Jul was certainly an early migrant. Fifteen Fernandinas Flickers were noted near Sopillar and Australia, Cu., 11 Jun (OG, C&SG). Gonzalez has found 21 nests (*fide* CG) between these two locations. Another South American migrant found over-wintering at Grenada was a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at several localities in the s. peninsula 26–31 Jul.

A Bahama Swallow was noted 14 Jun at Cayo Coco, Cu. (C&SG). J.R. Crouse reports on the probability that Golden Swallows are resident near Fermathe, Ha. (el. 4500 ft), where 2 were noted 24 Jun. Daily counts of up to 100 Barn Swallows were recorded at all locations on Be. at the end of Jul exceeding all previous counts, according to AD. A Louisiana Waterthrush was noted 18 Jul at Jenningsland, Be. Also noted at Fermathe 24 Jun (JRC et al.), in the steeply sloped high-country terraces, were 2 endemic Black-crowned Palm Tanagers. Nutmeg Mannikin (20) and Chestnut Mannikin (20) were noted at Verettes, an agricultural area in the Artibonite R. valley, Ha., 11 Jul (JRC et al.).

ADDENDUM

A Giant Cowbird was reported from Barbados (FH) as having been on the island 9 Mar 2000 through the summer at Palm Beach, Hastings, providing the first record for the island and the West Indies. Several Scarlet Tanagers were noted at Mt. Scenery, Saba, 10 Apr, and a Summer Tanager was noted at Saba 11 Apr (MW-M).

Contributors: Eric Amos, Jeff Boshart, Dick Boshart, Jimmy Carter, Sergio Colon, J. R. Crouse, Andrew Dobson, Charles and Sharon Gambill, Osmany Gonzalez, Floyd Hayes, Nedra Klein, Jeremy & Leila Madeiros, Chino Martinez, Mark Oberle, Evette Peterson, Pedro Ruiz Ranaldo, Martha Walsh-McGehee, David Wingate.

SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

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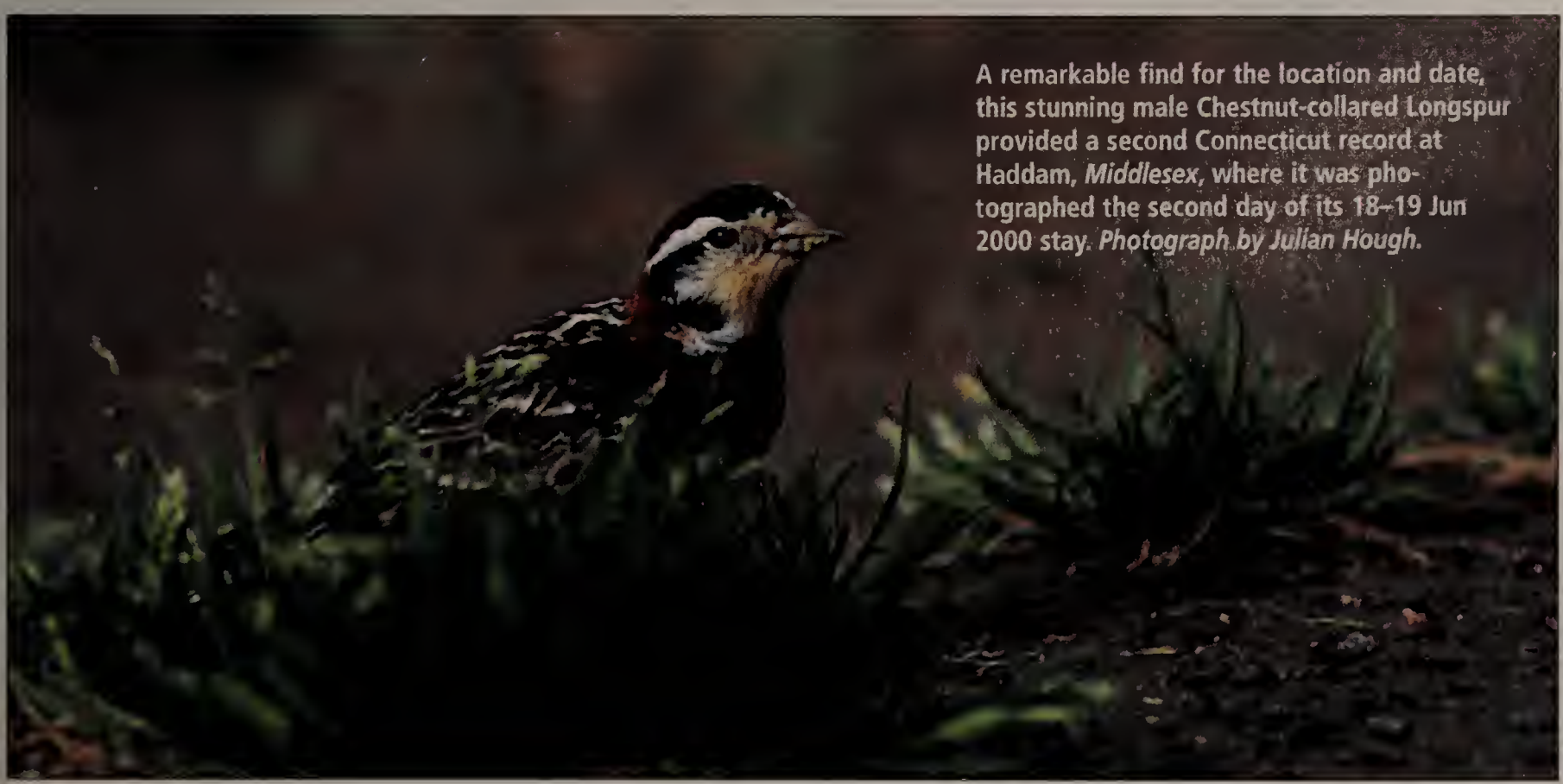
pictorial highlights

Constituting a first record for Québec, and one of the few for North America away from western Alaska, was this adult Common Ringed Plover in alternate plumage at Les Escoumins 7 Jul 2000. Note the wide black breast band, thick loral stripe, and wide black forehead patch. Diagnostic calls were noted. *Photograph by Claude Auchu.*

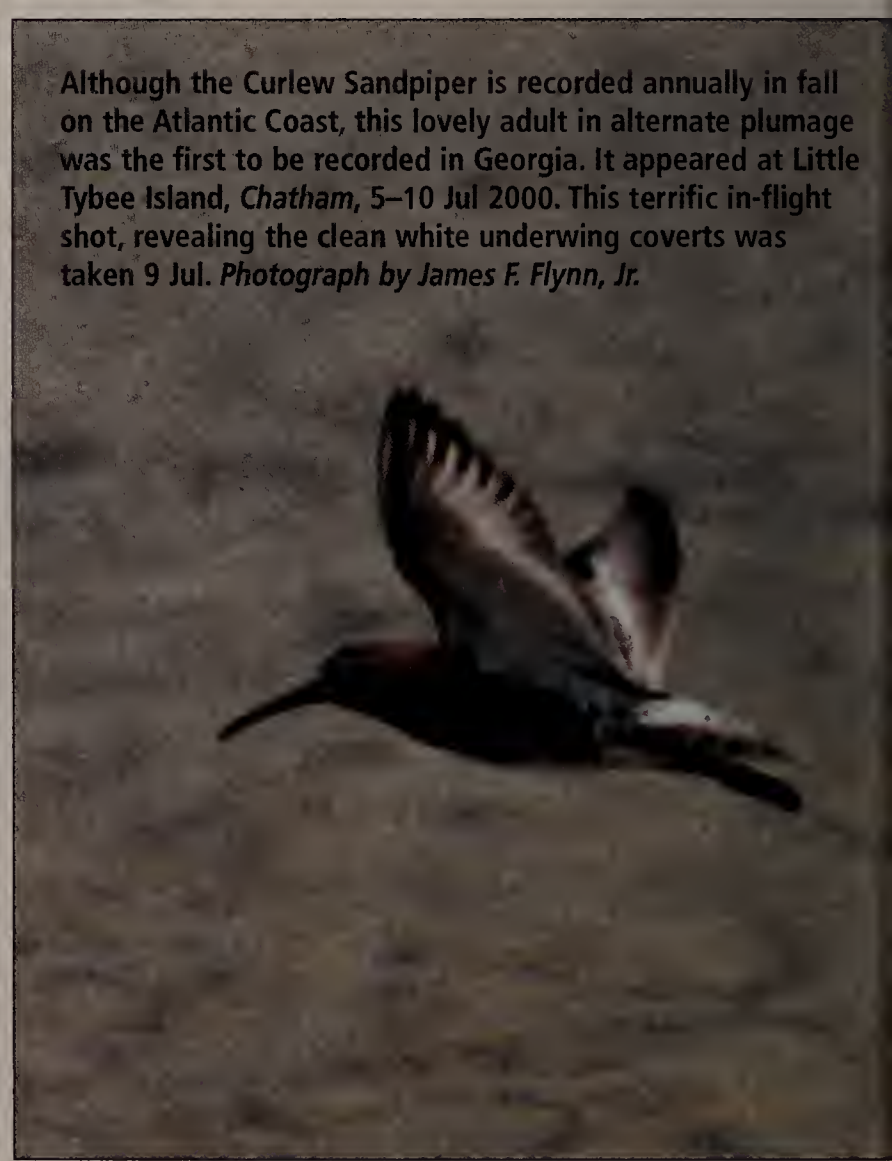
Eurasian stints put on a show on Long Island. A brightly-colored Red-necked Stint (right), New York's sixth, appeared at Cupsogue County Park and Pike's Beach, *Suffolk*, 12–18 Jul 2000, with this image captured 15 Jul. Note the unmarked reddish coloration extending across the throat and breast. Amazingly, a Little Stint (above), New York's third, appeared at the same locale 15–16 Jul 2000, with this image captured on the latter date. Note the white throat and orange-red coloration across the breast. *Photographs by Angus Wilson* (Red-necked Stint) *and Rex G. Stanford* (Little Stint).



A remarkable find for the location and date, this stunning male Chestnut-collared Longspur provided a second Connecticut record at Haddam, *Middlesex*, where it was photographed the second day of its 18–19 Jun 2000 stay. *Photograph by Julian Hough.*

Always an exciting find in the United States, this Fork-tailed Flycatcher, photographed at Viera, *Brevard*, Florida, 14 Aug 2000, fit a well-established pattern of fall vagrancy to temperate North America. *Photograph by Kurt A. Radamaker.*

A true tropical and subtropical species, the Anhinga seldom strays into northern temperate areas. Not so with this male at a marsh near London, Middlesex, 17 July–14 Sep 2000, the first recorded in Ontario since 1904. *Photograph by Alf Rider.*



Although the Curlew Sandpiper is recorded annually in fall on the Atlantic Coast, this lovely adult in alternate plumage was the first to be recorded in Georgia. It appeared at Little Tybee Island, *Chatham*, 5–10 Jul 2000. This terrific in-flight shot, revealing the clean white underwing coverts was taken 9 Jul. *Photograph by James F. Flynn, Jr.*

In the United States, the Great White Heron *(Ardea [herodias] occidentalis)* is not normally found away from southernmost Florida. This bird, at a golf course near Brevard, *Transylvania*, North Carolina, 10 Jul 2000, therefore furnished a remarkable record, being not only a first for the western part of the state, but also one of a few west of the Appalachian divide (it has reached the Great Lakes). *Photograph by Ludwig Kempe.*

This adult Black-billed Cuckoo (left) was one of a pair that successfully nested (below) in *Lake*, furnishing the first nesting record for western Tennessee in 50 years. *Photographs by Jeff R. Wilson.*

A singing male Slate-throated Redstart in the Davis Mountains 25 Jun furnished the third record for Texas and one of the fewer than ten for the United States. This bird was apparently defending territory during its 21–25 Jun 2000 stay. *Photographs by Mark Adams.*

Alberta's first Field Sparrow, a singing male, was noted at Bryant Creek west of Clagary 8–11 Jun 2000, with this photo taken on the last date. *Photographs by Terry Korolyk.*

All of the ±16 records for California of the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck are from the Salton Sea region. The most recent record was provided by these two birds at a marsh near the southwestern shoreline 28 May–22 Jun 2000, with this photo taken 13 Jun. *Photographs by Kenneth Z. Kurland.*

Day 3: Tufted Puffins on the cliffs of the Zapadni-Tolstoi Rookery.

Extended Forecast: Rain, Wind, Sleet, Brrrr, Repeat.

The only way to get a bird's eye view of Alaska. Note to self: Next time skip the Lumberjack Breakfast.

Nesting Murres are easily disturbed and best observed from afar.

Laura spotting her first Rock Sandpiper. Check one more off the list.

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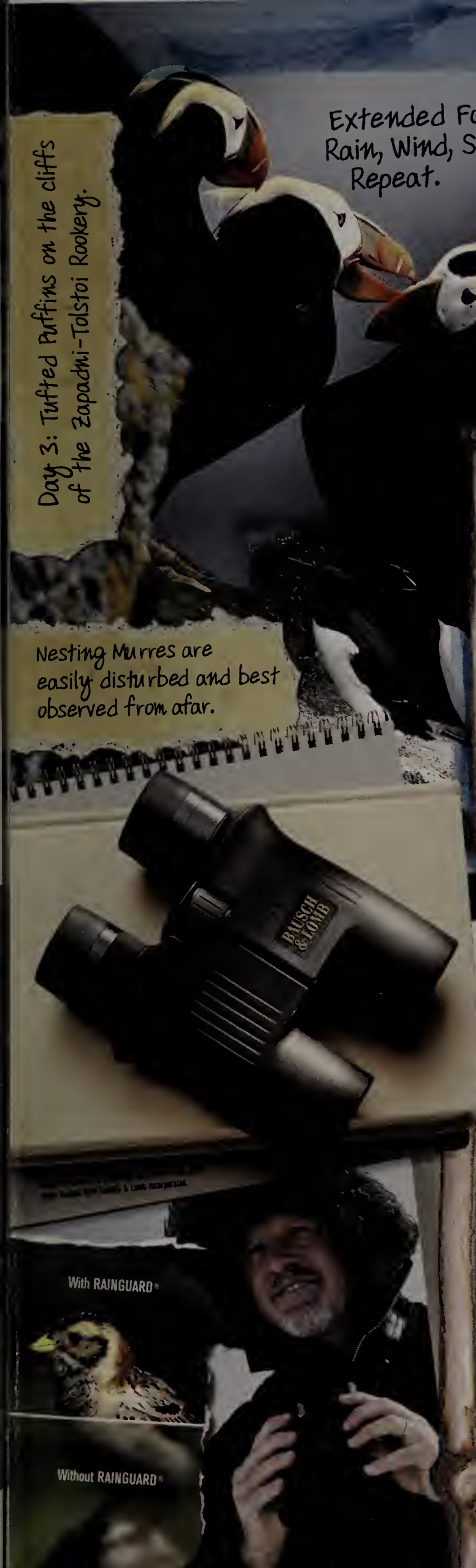

Pribilof Islands, Alaska

7 days. 14 hours of daylight each. 21 new additions to my life list. Wow. Every day something new blows me away. And that's not counting the wind.

The native Aleuts here have a saying that goes something like, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes; it'll change." The RainGuard lens coating on my Elite binoculars and spotting scope saved the day more than once. Even on the coldest, wettest mornings, they never fogged.

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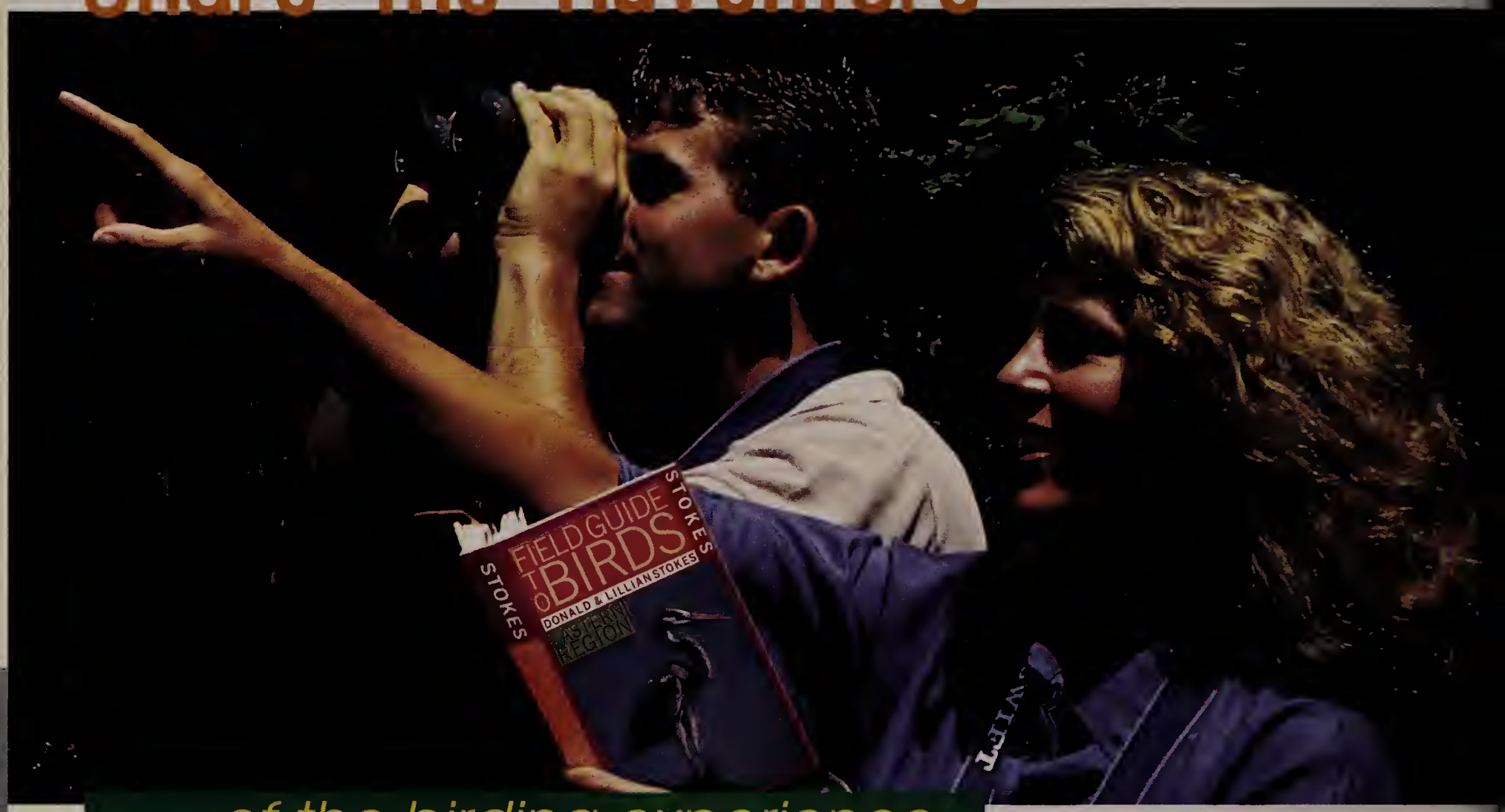

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